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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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Politics of Europe.

Our paper of to-day contains certain documents of great interest and importance to the Commercial part of the Indian Community; to which we would, therefore, particularly direct the attention of our Readers. The first, comprised in this and the subsequent sheets, are copied from a pamphlet, handed to us for publication, containing the "Report of the Committee of Merchants, Agents, and Ship Owners," in London, and connected with the Trade of the East Indies; and other Papers relating thereto: and in our ASIATIC DEPARTMENT, we give the Resolutions adopted by a Meeting of Merchants holden in Calcutta on Tuesday last, for the consideration of the same subject. We have much pleasure in complying with the desire expressed in the 6th Resolution, by giving these proceedings publicity; and hope it will have the desired effect of securing the co-operation of many who are friendly to the improvement of the India Trade, in the Interior of the country or in other parts of Asia.

The great difficulty India has to struggle with, is the too great apathy that prevails in England about the affairs of the East. The formation of a Society resolved to watch over every measure that might affect its commercial interests, may be attended with immense advantages. This must, however, greatly depend upon the co-operation of persons in this country; for unless active exertions be used to make the Society in England perfectly acquainted with whatever tends to affect commerce in this part of the world, the means of remedying deficiencies, and of removing the fears and prejudices that have been industriously fostered,—the old illiberal system may still be pursued for many years to come, to the prejudice of the East India Company, as well as of the general interests of the British Empire.

Cyprus, Aug. 15.—Sixty-two towns and villages in this unhappy island have wholly disappeared: only their ruins remain to attest the barbarity of their destroyers, and yet the rage of these blood-stained monsters is not yet appeased. A band of wretches very lately repaired to Morphou, where they destroyed every thing with fire and sword: the women and children were for the most part taken, and confined for several days in private houses, without food: those who were not destroyed by hunger, were burnt together with the houses. Every house is remarked by murders in all parts of the island. The Christians are hunted like wild beasts.

It is chiefly upon the churches and the Ministers of the Christian religion, that these stupid Turks continue to exercise their fury. At St. Niassa, after killing or taking prisoners the inhabitants in the time of peace, they burnt the images of the church, and transformed the edifice into a stable. At Chrysorajatisso, the church of Aspro-Panagia was changed into a mosque. Very lately, the Zabit (Sub-Governor) of Cyrenia, at the head of a band of furious wretches, entered the convent of Panteleimon, and after having saddled and bridled the monks, like beasts of burden, they mounted on their backs, and so rode about the country. Some of these unfortunate men expired from fatigue. The Governor of the island, a man equally ferocious and stupid, lately sent his *cosas* (the performer of his orders) to the monastery of Kicou, where some calovers (anchores) still remained. This officer, no less cruel than his master, made several of these poor solitaries expire in tortures; among others, father

Sylvester, who was known throughout this island. The rest dispersed, leaving the monastery deserted.

The Turks then set fire to the environs. The conflagration continued twenty-three days, gradually extending to all the neighbouring districts. Several fine forests of fruit-trees, vineyards, &c., have fallen a prey to the flames. The damage done by this fire is incalculable. A tract of country thirty-five leagues in extent, formerly so remarkable for its high cultivation and fertility, is now nothing more than a heap of ashes.

That part of the island which is occupied by the troops of Mahomed Ali, Pasha of Egypt, alone enjoys tranquillity. Salih Bey, who commands for the Pasha, makes his troops observe the strictest discipline. If Mahomed Ali should withdraw his troops, as there is reason to fear, there would be no longer any security even for the Franks." (It is the English Consul who speaks.)

Extract of a Letter from Smyrna, Sept. 1.—"The desolation of Scio, which owes part of its misfortunes to the imprudent zeal of Mr. D., who drew the Greeks into the snares of the Turks by publishing a deceitful amnesty, in which we will suppose he believed, cannot be compared with the ravages exercised in Cyprus by the Mahometans. We long refused to credit the new crimes which have deluged with blood the territories of Paphos, Amathont, and Famagousta; but the veil is torn, and the enemy of the Christian world no longer conceals his monstrous deeds. Since the month of July, 25,000 Christians, of all ages and both sexes, have fallen under the hands of the executioners—that is, the Turkish soldiery; for the stake or the gibbet would not suffice for the impatient cruelty of the circumcised tigers. Seventy-four villages, containing a population of 18,000 Christians, are no more; the old men and the married women have perished; the rest have been sold to be conveyed into the interior of Asia Minor, except the children under four years of age, who have been killed or thrown into the sea. The churches, the monasteries, in a district of 40 square leagues, have disappeared; the priests and monks, without exception, have received the crown of martyrdom, and perished in dreadful torments. Yet there has been no insurrection in Cyprus; but the will of the Sultan has sworn the extirpation of Christianity: he strikes, and the Ægean Sea and the islands are dyed with blood.

Be not surprised if the miserable journal published here, does not disclose such crimes; they would injure the cause it has embraced, and the wish of Turks, of whom he is the echo, is to see the Greeks annihilated. I will point out another time the men who are base enough to have speculated on the misfortunes of the Christians, the fortunes acquired by the sale of an asylum and protection to the wretched, and the monopoly of blood exercised in these days of carnage and mourning. It is not yet time to speak. Above all, I must not omit to mention that the part of Cyprus occupied by one of the commanders of Mahomed Ali Pasha of Egypt, is tranquil; the Christians are protected there; accordingly, it is publicly said at Constantinople and here, that the Viceroy of Egypt is a renegade, a traitor, and that as soon as it can be done, he will have the merited fate of Ali, Pasha of Joannina."

Covent-Garden Theatre.—The tragedy of Douglas was last night performed, but not performed in a manner commensurate with its merits. A gentleman, whose name, we understand, is

Mason, a nephew of Mr. C. Kemble, appeared, for the first time on these boards, as the young and passionate *Norval*. Alas! he was not *Norval*—he had neither the modesty, nor the fire of that endearing character. The “young gentleman” who, last night personated the gallant young Scotchman, is “a fine creature of bombast.” With a strong lisp in level speaking—with a decided croak when strong passion should be expressed—how came that youth to woo the Tragic Muse? Thinks he that tragic genius it hereditary in the Kemble family? If such a dream have hitherto, overclouded Mr. Mason’s better mind, it is fitting that it should be put to flight. He, last evening, gave a very decided proof, that even a well-tutored descendant of the Kemble stock might be a very indifferent actor. Great pains have evidently been bestowed upon Mr. Mason. He treads the stage well: his action, though superabundant, is not without grace; and he labours hard to give point to his sentences. He is well trained, but he wants the *mens divini*—the internal spark—in the absence of which, the most refined art, even though aided by elegance of form and perfectness of voice, produces but a momentary effect. The school-boy studies, “My name is *Norval*,” and “Beneath a mountain’s brow,” were delivered most inefficiently. Neither esteem for the poet, nor respect for the actor, was excited by the conventional style in which they were uttered. We were led to suppose that the new *Norval* was reserving all his fire for the scenes with *Glenalvon* and *Lady Randolph*; but when he came to these, he was just as torpid as before. Mr. Abbott is an actor of much higher grade. No doubt, his *Young Norval* would be bad; but it would be infinitely better than the unfeeling misrepresentation of Mr. Mason. In justice, however, we must observe, that this gentleman was honoured with a good deal of applause—why, we could not perceive: the manager, perhaps, can inform us. The part of *Lady Randolph* was assigned to Mrs. W. Clifford—a lady who recently performed at the Hay-market Theatre. She has, we think, studied in the school of Mrs. Bartley. She whines abominably: her sorrows go for nothing, they are all artificial. Mr. Bartley was the *Old Norval* of the evening. He looked like *Boniface*, and he spoke as if he had been refreshing himself with “sundry pots of ale.” Mr. Yates played *Glenalvon*, and really, speaking with reference to those who moved around him, he shone like a man of talent. The farce of *The poor Soldier* followed, in which Mr. Keeley, who has figured at some of the minor theatres, performed the part of *Darby*. He is a close observer of Mr. Munden’s style, and went through the character very meritoriously. He ought, however, to adhere more closely to his text. He introduced readings which O’Keefe never thought of. This may be very well at the Coburg or Adelphi; but it should not be suffered at Covent-garden. *Patrick* was prettily supported by Miss Beaumont; she sang “My friend and pitcher” in good style. We object, however, to the practice of placing ladies in characters which should be supported by men. Why did not Mr. Pearman support this character? A woman’s feelings ought to be respected; but, according to theatrical articles, had Miss Beaumont refused to appear as *Patrick*, her fastidiousness would, we suppose, have cost her a good round sum. Miss Love as *Norah*, Miss Hallande as *Kathleen*, and Mr. Connor as *Father Luke*, richly merited the applause they received.

Improvement of the Streets.—Yesterday (Dec. 3.) a second meeting was held at the City of London Tavern for the purpose of establishing a Sub-way Company to prevent the necessity of opening the pavements of the City of London for the introduction of water and gas pipes, &c. &c.

Mr. Williams, the original projector, having been called to the Chair, proposed, that a printed prospectus containing the particulars of the plan should be read. The following extract will give an idea of the manner in which it is proposed to carry it into execution:—

“In constructing these ‘Sub-ways,’ I propose to open the ground to the required depth, say of ten feet; lay a course of bricks, stones, or iron, nearly level, or rather curved on the ground, five feet wide, with drains to go into the sewers; raise a wall on each side five feet high, and arch it over, so as to leave

the height, in the centre of it, seven and a half feet clear; leave openings of nine inches in each upright wall, at the distance of every twenty feet, three feet from the base; from these openings carry tunnels to the sides of the streets, and at the end of the tunnels, fix gratings or doors, to be opened from the inside; leave similar openings in the top of the arch, at the distance of every hundred feet, for the admission of light and air; and doorways, five feet high, and three feet wide, in each side wall where these openings are made.

“These ‘Sub-ways’ may be entered at the sides by doors and passages wherever required from the houses and buildings in the streets and roads, in the same manner as into cellars that are under the streets; and the main pipes for every purpose may be placed therein, on iron cradles, or otherwise; and the service pipes, for the supply of the Public, through the tunnels or openings, in the side walls.

“These ‘Sub-ways’ may also be formed double, or another parallel to the first—one for water, and the other for gas pipes—and in any number that may be required with or without doors communicating into each or either of the other Sub-ways.

“From these ‘Sub-ways’ and ‘Passages’ access may be had into the sewers and drains, or springs, and well water; and for almost every purpose for which the pavement and carriage paths in streets, roads, and public ways, have hitherto been opened, &c. &c.

“As it must necessarily be undertaken upon a large and extensive scale, to be generally useful, and by authority of Parliament, it is proposed to raise 100,000*l.* in transferable shares of 100*l.* each, for the ‘City of London Patent Sub-way Company.’

“This capital to be employed in constructing the ‘Sub-ways’ and ‘Passages,’ as soon as leave can be obtained by an Act of Parliament.

“The ‘City of London Patent Sub-way Company’ propose to receive into their ‘Sub-ways’ the respective pipes of the several Companies now in existence, and those that may be created in future for the flow of any material, at the same price per annum it has hitherto cost each Company for laying down and taking up the pipes, upon the average of the last seven years.

“They also propose to give access to the work people of the Commissioners of Sewers, into and through their ‘Sub-ways,’ for the formation and repairs of the sewers and drains, and other purposes, upon receiving the same sum per annum which they have hitherto expended for opening, shoring, and closing the streets, roads, and public ways, upon the average of the last seven years.

This Company engage to preserve the Highways and Pavements of the streets, roads, and public paths, in the most perfect condition, after they are once properly laid down to their satisfaction, upon receiving the same annual amount that has hitherto been expended for that purpose, upon the average of the last seven years.”

The prospectus being read, Mr. Williams adverted to some few objections that had been started to his plan at the former meeting, and endeavoured to show that they were entirely without foundation.

After a desultory conversation, in which Mr. S. Dixon, Mr. Beringer, and other Gentlemen, took a part, a Committee was appointed, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of miles over which the Sub-ways would extend, the expence of each mile in bricks or iron, and the income that would probably arise to the subscribers.

Late Mrs. Garrick.—The late Mrs. Garrick was so conscious of her approaching dissolution, that she ordered the sheets which were on the bed when Garrick died, and which were scrupulously preserved by her, to be aired and put upon her bed. Whilst the servant was doing this the old lady expired in her chair.

Mrs. Garrick’s letter of remonstrance against Kean’s *Abel Drugger* was brief:—“Dear Sir, you don’t know how to play *Abel Drugger*.” His reply deserves also to be recorded, and placed to the credit of his gallantry:—“Dear Madam, I know it.”

Report on East India Trade.

Report of the Committee of Merchants, Agents, and Ship-Owners, in London, connected with the Trade of the East Indies.—Presented to a General Meeting of the Society held at their Office, in Broad-Street, 15th August, 1822, and Ordered to be Printed.

East India Trade Committee Room, 53, Broad-Street, 15th August, 1822.

At the General Meeting, held this day, EDWARD FLETCHER, Esq. in the Chair, the following Resolutions were passed unanimously:

1st.—Proposed by WM. BURNIE, Esq. and seconded by HENRY PORCHER, Esq. M.P. That this Meeting, fully concurring in the sentiments expressed by their Committee in the Report now presented and read, do approve of the same: and that the said Report be printed and circulated under the direction of the Committee.

2d.—Proposed by T.G. BABINGTON, Esq. and seconded by JOHN COCKERELL, Esq. That the views and objects of this Association be further made known to the Commercial Community of India, through the gentlemen at the several Presidencies, with whom the Committee have been in correspondence.

3d.—Proposed by H. ST. GEORGE TUCKER, Esq. and seconded by W. H. TRANT, Esq. Honorary Members, That the cordial Thanks of this Society are specially due to the Gentlemen forming the Committee, for the zeal and ability with which they have executed the important trust reposed in them.

E. FLETCHER, Chairman.

Proposed by HENRY BONHAM, Esq. seconded by R.C. BAZETT, Esq. and resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to EDWARD FLETCHER, Esq. for the able manner in which he has presided on the present occasion.

REPORT, &c. &c.

THE increasing importance of the the private trade with the East Indies, since the year 1813, and the necessity of guarding the interest created and extended by the new system, adopted at that period led to the formation of this Society in 1821.

The chief objects which its founders had in view were,

1st.—To watch over every measure, whether proceeding from His Majesty's Government, the East India Company, or the Legislature, which might affect the commercial interests of India, and the branches of trade connected therewith.

2d.—To establish a centre of union, at which such measures and their effects might be examined and discussed.

3d.—To point out to the proper authorities any grievances arising from the existing regulations of the East India trade, and to propose suitable remedies.

4th.—To bring forward, from time to time, such improvements in the general system, and in the legislative enactments on which it is grounded, as their practical experience might suggest, and which were likely to become expedient in a trade of so recent a date, and so complicated in its details.

To your Committee the prosecution of these objects was confided, and it is now their duty, after the lapse of eighteen months, to show to the Society at large in what manner the trust has been executed. With this view, your Committee proceed to lay before you an abstract of their proceedings, showing what they have done, and what yet remains to be performed; and (assuming that the expediency of rendering this Society permanent will be clearly manifested throughout that summary) your Committee will conclude by pointing out what appears to them the most advisable course to pursue.

ABSTRACT.

The first question that came before your Committee was the proposed increase of duties on East India sugars. Indeed, to the difficulties under which the East India trade laboured, at that time, in contending against the combined measures of the powerful interests opposed to them, the establishment of the Society, may be said to owe its origin.

That important question will, therefore, form a prominent feature in the abstract of their labours. Reserving the sugar question, then, to the last, your Committee proceed to state what they have done in other matters, to which their attention has been called since their establishment.

MARINE INSURANCES.

In the Session of 1821, a Bill was proposed, by which the policy-duty on risks by ship or ships, beyond the Cape of Good Hope, would have been virtually doubled, while that on all other risks would have been lowered one half: your Committee took the earliest opportunity of pointing out the injustice of this measure to His Majesty's Government, and the Bill was then dropped. It was revived in the Session of the present year retaining the clauses as to ship or ships, and double

voyages, but without the objectionable distinction as to policies beyond the Cape of Good Hope, which would, consequently, have partaken of the proposed reduction. The Bill, from its complicated nature, and the late period of the Session, has however, again been withdrawn. Your Committee are of opinion, that, to facilitate the effecting of Indian insurances in this country, policies on ship or ships should not be liable to duties double the amount of those imposed on policies in which the vessel can be named; and should the measure be hereafter resumed, they will continue their opposition to it on that and other obvious grounds of objection.

AGENCY AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The want of an efficient Agent at the Cape Good Hope having been experienced in some recent cases of shipwreck, your Committee deemed it proper to appoint Messrs. Nisbet and Dickson to that office, on behalf of all persons connected with the Society, in such contingencies only; and having communicated upon the subject with the Committee of Lloyd's, that body appointed the same gentlemen to their Agency at that Colony, which was then vacant.

SHIPPING AND COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS.

At a very early period your Committee opened a correspondence with gentlemen connected with the Commercial Interests at the three Presidencies in India, with a view to obtain an accurate knowledge of any inconveniences which might attend the existing Shipping and Commercial Regulations. Hitherto the correspondence has not led to any results which require particular notice; but your Committee have the satisfaction to report, that the establishment of the Society has met with their decided approbation. Memorials transmitted from those several Presidencies, urging the advantages of an intercourse between China and Foreign Europe in British ships, have been forwarded to the President of the Board of Trade, and to the Chairman of the Foreign Trade Committee. Your Committee are unwilling to enter at length into the discussion of a subject on which some difference of sentiment may possibly exist; but they agree in the opinion expressed by the Committee of the House of Commons, "that no restrictions upon commerce should be imposed or retained, for which there is not a clear and undoubted necessity;" and they consider that the objects to which the exertions of the Committee have been and should be directed on this head are as follows:—

1.—LICENSES.

As to Licenses—To both ship and persons proceeding to India, every facility consistent with security should be afforded; and while your Committee do not deem it expedient to resist the proposed measure of obliging outward bound ships to touch at some principal settlement previously to their unrestricted trading with other Indian ports, it is under the impression that this restrictive regulation is considered, by the Court of Directors, essential to the authority and controul which ought to be vested in their local governments. Your Committee trust, however, that neither this nor the local regulations at the ports of India will impede the freest exercise of commerce, or the residence of persons of respectable character and station in India for commercial purposes, on which the extension of the trade so mainly depends.

The same principle governs your committee with reference to the

2.—SIZE OF SHIPS.

Whilst British vessels, engaged in the trade between India, and Malta, and Gibraltar, and also Foreign Europe, are under no restriction as to size, your Committee cannot perceive the policy of continuing the restriction where it is least needed; namely, in the case of the direct trade between India and Great Britain; at the same time, your Committee are decidedly of opinion, that, however desirable its removal may be to the British free trader, the paramount claims of justice demand that no measure of this kind should be enacted without a fair consideration being shown to India built shipping; and that no extension of privilege should be granted to British ships until British India built ships are relieved from the restriction of a limited registry, and admitted to a participation in the advantages attaching to a general British registry now enjoyed by vessels built in all other colonies and dependencies of the empire.

3.—LASCARS.

By the existing law, the East India Company are bound to provide for the maintenance here, and the return to India, of all Asiatic seamen which may come to this country, either in their own or in private ships; and where expense is incurred on account of the latter, the owners are responsible to the Company for its repayment; but it ought to be considered, that the owners have no power of compelling the seamen to return; and it is a fact well known to your Committee, that scarcely a ship with Lascars arrives from India, some of the crew of which do not abscond, and thus become a burden on the owners. Your Committee are of opinion, that controul should be given where protection is required and responsibility attaches; and they have drawn the attention of several Members of the Court of Directors to the subject, with a view of obtaining some equitable regulations thereon.

There is another point, connected with this branch of the subject, which demands serious consideration, viz.—the obligation of carrying back in India ships two crews,—the Lascar crew, which, in consequence of the absolute want of British seamen, had been brought from India; and the British crew, which every vessel, leaving Great Britain must carry out in proportion to her tonnage.

4.—FREIGHTS.

This important question has occupied the attention of your Committee; but they have not yet been able to arrive at any satisfactory result. Their object has been, in conjunction with the ship owners, to arrange some system for regulating the settlement of freights from India, which may form the general custom of the trade, and govern every case not provided for by a specific contract. The various difficulties and disputes that are constantly occurring in the adjustment of India freights, render it a most desirable object to effect this; and your Committee hope, at an early period, to be able to digest a plan which shall be satisfactory to all parties.

THE TRADE TO CEYLON.

An interview was obtained with Mr. Goulbourn on the subject of the duties levied in this island, and the opening of the trade in cinnamon was then strongly urged. Of this subject your Committee will not lose sight. They intend again to press it upon the attention of his Majesty's Government, previous to the departure of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of Ceylon and other British Colonies in the eastern seas.

SINGAPORE.

The importance of this settlement, as an emporium for the distribution of British manufactures throughout the Eastern Archipelago, China, Cochin China, and Siam, has not escaped the solicitude of your Committee. Since the Memorial was presented to Government on this subject last year, no farther communication has been made as to the progress of the negotiation; but the manner in which this settlement is adverted to in the Report of the Foreign Trade Committee,—the recent mission of Mr. Crawford to Siam,—and the assurances from the Board of Control that they are alive to the importance of the subject, lead your Committee to hope that the British interests in that quarter will not be neglected. It is, however, the intention of your Committee to address the Board of Control upon it during the present recess of Parliament. (See Appendix A.)

EAST INDIA DOCK DUES.

Your Committee are strongly impressed with the importance of obtaining a reasonable reduction in the exorbitant rates charged at the East India Docks, and a change in the present dilatory system prevailing there; but whilst a Committee of the House of Commons were engaged in the consideration of the Charter of the West India Dock Company, they did not consider it expedient to press the subject on the attention of Government. As it is understood, however, that a reduction of the rates chargeable at the other Docks will take place, your Committee will not fail to require, on behalf of the East India trade, a correspondent reduction of Dock-Charges; and they trust that, on the expiration of the Charters of the present Dock Companies, a general system of competition will be adopted.

WAREHOUSE RENT.

No answer has been returned to an application which was made to the East India Company for a reduction in the Rates of Warehouse-Rent; but your Committee intend to re-call the attention of the Court of Directors to the subject, as, from the general fall of prices, the present Rates are, in many instances, extremely oppressive, and beyond the fair remuneration for labour and interest on capital embarked in the Company's warehouses.

EXCHANGES.

Your Committee have been in the habit, from time to time, of noting down the existing Rates of Exchange for Bills on the several Presidencies in India, and they conceive this register may be of use to the several members of the Society, to whose inspection it will, at all times, be open.

COFFEE, PEPPER, AND TOBACCO.

SIZE OF PACKAGES.

Your Committee have long felt the inconvenience arising from the revenue regulation of the Excise, which requires coffee to be imported in bags of not less than one hundred pounds net weight. Constant seizures have taken place, and the recovery has been attended with delay, much official correspondence, and eventually, severe fines; and in some cases, confiscation has followed. Representations have been repeatedly made, pointing out the impolicy of driving the coffee-trade from this country, by such restrictions, to Holland, where none exist and to which the trade from Java is now more naturally directed. Whilst this grievance remained unredressed, pepper was removed from the Customs to the Excise, and placed, by the Acts 1 and 2 Geo. IV. cap. 105, under a similar restriction after the 5th of January, 1823. A Memorial on the subject was immediately presented to the Treasury, and a communication made to the East India Company, who have joined your

Committee in their application for relief. The subject is still under consideration. For the information of the Society, a copy of the last Letter from the Committee to the Lords of the Treasury is given in the Appendix (B). Similar inconveniences are experienced in the case of tobacco.

SAGO.

This article, as imported from the East Indies is now chiefly used in hospitals. It was formerly considered an article of food, classed accordingly, and admitted with rice and other articles duty free; the classification has since been departed from; for while rice has been subjected to a duty of 5s. per cwt. only, a duty of 74s. 8d. per cwt. has been affixed to sago, which operates as a prohibition. An application for a reduction of the duty has, in consequence, been made, but hitherto without effect.

BORAX.

Whilst East India Borax was subjected to the heavy import duty of 1s. 8d. per lb. on refined, and 8d. per lb. on unrefined, the importation of boracic acid, from Italy, was permitted duty free. The impolicy of this preference rendered an application necessary for an assimilation of the duty on these articles respectively; and your Committee are informed that the request has been acceded to.

Having gone through these several subjects your Committee now proceed to.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

In April, 1821, it being in the contemplation of His Majesty's Government, as the suggestion of the West India planters and merchants, to increase the duty chargeable on East India sugars, viz. 2s. 6d. per cwt. additional on Muscovado, and 7s. 6d. per cwt. on clayed, your Committee engaged in a determined opposition to a measure so detrimental to the commercial and agricultural interests of India, and to the trade of Great Britain with that country; a correspondence was opened with the East India Association of Liverpool, and the Chambers of Commerce at Birmingham, Manchester, &c.; a petition was drawn up and presented to the honourable the House of Commons; resolutions embodying the substance of the arguments in favour of the East India interests were adopted, (see Appendix C); and interviews obtained with His Majesty's ministers. The result was partially successful. The new duty on Muscovado East India sugar was abandoned; the classification of East India sugars, with an increase of 5s. per cwt. on clayed, or that of a quality equal to clayed, and a prohibitory duty on foreign sugars from places eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, enacted for a short period only, with an assurance from His Majesty's ministers that East India sugars of the quality then imported from Bengal, should not be affected by the classification; and, finally, that the whole question as to the justice and expediency of any protecting duty whatsoever should be referred to a Committee of the House of Commons, previously to the expiration of the temporary act in March, 1823.

The new Acts 1st. and 2d. Geo. IV. came into operation in the course of the summer; it was imperfect and contradictory in some of its clauses; a correspondence in consequence took place, and the suggestions of your Committee were adopted by the Treasury, in a minute, dated 28th March last. (See Appendix D.)

The officers of the Customs having intimated an intention of charging all East India sugar which they might consider equal to clayed, with the increased duty, leaving the onus of proving the negative on the importers, a correspondence was resumed with the Treasury; a standard was asked for, and, on a reference to the Commissioners of Customs proposed by that Board; but it proved, as the Committee apprehended, one which affected all white Bengal sugars, contrary to the spirit of the act, and the explanation given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his place in the House of Commons. A representation to this effect has been made, which yet waits a reply.

In discussing with His Majesty's ministers the proposed increase of duties, your Committee took occasion to point out to them, in the strongest terms, the injustice of the existing duty on East India sugar, which is 10s. per cent. more than that chargeable on West India sugar; and they urged the propriety of an equal *ad valorem* duty on both kinds. One of the chief arguments against this proposition, and upon which His Majesty's ministers strongly insisted, arose from the restrictions imposed by the colonial system on the West Indies which in their opinion entitled the West Indians to the compensation of a substantial preference of their sugars in the home market.

Early in the last session of parliament, two bills were brought forward by the President of the Board of Trade, to do away the main restrictions of the colonial system. By these bills it was proposed to open the trade of the West Indies with the United States, the independent South American Governments, and the Continent of Europe. Your Committee immediately embraced the opportunity which was thus afforded them, of pressing upon His Majesty's ministers and parliament the claims of the East Indies; and confidently appealed to their justice that, when the restrictions on the trade of the West Indies should be removed, the additional duties on East India sugars should simultaneously cease. A petition to this effect was presented to the honourable the

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House of Commons, (see Appendix E.) and an interview was obtained with His Majesty's ministers.

At the same moment that these measures were in progress for the relief of the West India colonies, a bill for the regulation of the East India trade was brought into parliament, and the concurrence of the East India Company in the measure was requested through the medium of a general court. This bill admitted the British free trader to the whole of the country, or port to port trade, took away all restrictions as to the size of vessels, modified the system of licenses, and permitted an intercolonial trade between the East and West Indies, imposing, however, heavy duties on East Indian manufactures upon their introduction into the West Indies; but it neither gave any reciprocal advantage to the shipping of British India, nor did it propose to diminish the inequality in the duties on sugar; although both these points had very properly been brought to the notice of the Board of Control by the Court of Directors.

The whole measure certainly bore the appearance of having been framed to meet the pressing demands of the West India and Shipping interests here, without the slightest regard to the claims of British India. Your Committee determined, therefore to stand forward in vindication of their own rights, and those of the immense population of India. They called a general meeting of the Society, which was numerously attended, and the resolutions, a copy of which will be found in the Appendix (E), were unanimously adopted.

The general court of proprietors of East India stock, which had been called to concur in the measure, offered the best opportunity of publicly and effectually asserting the principles laid down in those resolutions. Your Committee, therefore, availed themselves of it; and gave the most strenuous support to Mr. Charles Forbes, who undertook to come forward on the occasion, and most ably advocated their cause. The resolutions moved by that gentleman, and adopted by the Court of Proprietors, were in strict conformity with the views of your Committee; and they are prepared to justify them in all their extent; (see Appendix G). The effect of the public discussion which was thus excited has certainly been highly beneficial; the decided opposition which was thus evinced by the proprietors to an acquiescence in the proposed measure, led to the abandonment of the bill for the present.

The Sugar Duties, which were to expire in March, 1823, have been renewed for another year only; but the renewal was accompanied by a solemn pledge from His Majesty's ministers, and the Board of Control, that the whole question should receive a fair and full investigation during the next session of parliament, in a committee of the House of Commons.

In looking to the future, therefore, the first and most obvious duty of the Society will be, to prepare the means of doing justice to the claims of British India in the promised parliamentary investigation of the question now at issue between the sugar of the East Indies and that of the West. The various bearings of this question, and the wide range which it embraces, may, in some degree, be estimated, from what has already been stated in this Report, and will be more clearly seen by the Petitions to the House of Commons already alluded to. The Society will feel that it is essential to the success of their cause, not only that its justice should be established in argument, but that the evidence adduced in support of their different allegations should be clear and conclusive. It becomes necessary, therefore, to prepare and arrange the variety of testimony, both documentary and oral, which may be required to establish their case before a Committee of the House of Commons, and through that medium before Parliament and the public. Should this object be effected in such a manner as to exhibit the real merits of the question, however difficult it may be found to overcome, in the first instance, the powerful parliamentary influence, which is ranged on the side of the West India monopoly, the Committee cannot but anticipate a favourable final result. The unequivocal demands of justice, no less than the soundest principles of national policy, are diametrically opposed to the restrictions laid on the East India sugar trade, whilst the interests of the whole population of India, and the whole population of the United Kingdom, also, so clearly call for their removal, that your Committee cannot entertain a doubt, provided the approaching opportunity of thorough investigation shall be duly improved, of ultimate and even early success.

With these views your Committee feel that a most important charge devolves upon them of collecting and digesting the body of evidence which may be necessary, either for establishing our own case, or for disproving the allegations of our opponents; and, for this purpose, the Committee will avail themselves of the power which is given them of adding to their number such members of the general body as are conversant with the question, and can afford time to promote the highly important object in view.

The experience which your Committee have had, since their appointment, has enabled them to perceive that it is not merely in respect to the question of sugar, that the vast interests connected with the opening commerce of the East require the unceasing and vigilant superintendence of such an association as this. Without the slightest wish to imply any blame on public men, it is obvious that they are liable

to be influenced by partial and plausible representations, backed by the immediate and pressing importunity of interested parties; especially when those representations are uncontradicted, and that importunity experiences no counteraction; and they are thus induced to make concessions to those parties which, without any such intention, may go deeply to affect larger but more remote interests. The agricultural and commercial interests of India stand, in this respect, in a most unfavourable predicament: they are, it must be admitted, vast and infinitely important beyond those of any other of our transmarine possessions; but still they are remote; measures deeply and vitally affecting them may be discussed and carried into effect (nay, perhaps, as already in too many instances, may be carried into effect without discussion) before they have had any opportunity given them of vindicating their rights; and it is needless to point out how much easier it is to obstruct an injurious measure in its progress, than to obtain its repeal when it has once been passed. It appears, therefore, to your Committee, that, with a view to the effectual protection of these great interests, not only ought there to be formed, at the several Presidencies of British India, associations representing the commercial community of that vast empire, but that these associations should be in constant and active communication with your establishment in London, to which all information should converge. Standing on the post of observation, you would be able, with greater promptitude, to discover and ward off any threatened danger; and your Committee, combining the sentiments and wishes of the aggregate of their constituents, might be able, also, with effect, to urge on the Government and Legislature their claims to a fair and just measure of consideration, your Committee repeat—to a fair and just measure of consideration; for, beyond this, neither the views of your Committee, nor, they are persuaded, of any member of this Society would, for one moment, be extended. Their very fundamental principle being the entire freedom of commerce; they disclaim, at the outset, any right or title to the slightest shadow of peculiar or exclusive privilege. They can never, therefore, have any claims to urge which do not essentially involve the clear and unambiguous advantage of the general interests of the British empire.

The expediency of such an institution is further illustrated by what is done in almost all similar cases. There is scarcely a colony belonging to the British crown which does not employ an agent to watch over its interests, and to advocate its claims; there is not, it is believed, a single island in the West Indies without such an agent; but, in addition to this, the whole body of West Indian planters and merchants is formed into one great and combined association, represented by a Committee in London, specially charged with the care of their concerns, and deriving the means of promoting their general objects from the accumulated contributions of all who are interested in West Indian agriculture and commerce. The influence manifestly possessed by the West Indian body, both in and out of Parliament, is, in a great part, to be traced to this organization.

Your Committee having thus explained their general views as to the future, it will follow, provided they are approved, that, in order to carry them into effect, considerable expense will be incurred; there must be an office for the transaction of a business of such magnitude; there must be a secretary to devote his time and his talents to the conduct of it, and to the extensive correspondence, both foreign and domestic, to which such an institution will necessarily lead; there may be required, from time to time, additional assistance; expense will also be occasioned by the printing and circulation of reports and other statements which may be requisite for the information either of the members of the Society, or of the public at large, and by other contingencies; and all this is independent of any expense which may attend such a vigorous occasional effort as is now indispensable, for fully and fairly meeting the parliamentary investigation about to take place.

For these purposes, it seems to your Committee, that it will be expedient for the members, of the Society to continue their subscriptions for the present, to meet the expenses of the current year; at the same time, they consider it advisable to communicate the views and objects referred to in this Report, to the Gentlemen in India, with whom the Committee have been in correspondence. And the Committee feel confident that the co-operation of the commercial and other interests in India, both European and Native, will be cheerfully granted, in contributing to a fund to cover, the annual expenses hereafter.

Having stated thus much, your Committee submit the whole subject to the consideration of the Meeting, in the confidence that they will adopt that course, which, under all the circumstances of the case, is the most wise and prudent, and the best adapted to promote the great objects of their association.

E. FLETCHER, Chairman.

APPENDIX.

A.—Extract from the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords on Foreign Trade, dated 11th April, 1821.

"The maintenance of a free port, eligibly situated amongst the Indian islands, under British protection, which the magnitude of our establishments in that quarter of the globe may enable us to support at much

less expense than any other nation, may be attended with the greatest benefit to commerce and civilization. The importance of such a station, and the quick perception of its advantages, formed by the native traders in that part of the globe, may be estimated by the rapid rise of Singapore, during the year that it has been in the possession of the British Government, and opened for the purposes of general trade. The population, which had before scarcely amounted to two hundred souls, in three months increased to not less than three thousand, and now exceeds ten thousand in the whole; while one hundred and seventy three sail of vessels, of different descriptions, arrived and sailed in the course of the first two months."

B.—To S. R. LUSHINGTON, Esq. *Secretary of His Majesty's Treasury.*
SIR,

I HAVE laid before the Committee of East India trade your letter of the 19th April, with its inclosure, from the Commissioners of Excise relative to the expediency of continuing the stowage of coffee and pepper in bags of 100 lbs. weight; and agreeably to your permission, I take the liberty of offering their observations thereon.

The merchants are fully persuaded that it is the wish of His Majesty's Government to afford every facility consistent with the security of the revenue, and would take leave to observe, that whilst pepper and coffee were under different systems, though the former (pepper) was chargeable with a much higher duty than coffee, and allowed to be imported in bulk, no loss was sustained by the revenue, no frauds proved, or supposed to be practised, on the part of the importers. It does, therefore, seem hard that, with this practical illustration before them, the Board of Excise should recommend the restrictive system to be applied to pepper, rather than the open system to be extended to coffee, when it is equally notorious that Revenue Boards, the Treasury, and the merchants, have been subjected to constant vexations and disputes, and the merchants, also, to delay and serious loss, by the restrictions attaching to the article of coffee.

The merchants respectfully contend that all authority derived from experience is in favour of a free system, which does not injure the revenue, whilst it relieves all parties from the inconveniences attaching to the restrictive laws.

They are aware that there may be some advantage in the keeping of the accounts at the Excise, by the importation of pepper in packages; but this object is obtained by the present practice of the East India Company in re-packing all pepper imported, whether their own or that of private merchants, into bags of an unvaried weight. With regard to coffee, all that is requested is a liberal consideration when no attempt at fraud is supported to exist, and a modification of the restriction, (if the free system is not adopted,) so as to admit bags of 50 lbs. weight. But, in respect to pepper, the merchants connected with India must beg leave to repeat their observations, that no necessity whatever exists for the extension of the restrictive system to that article; and, in general, that the loss in freight, in distant voyage, by stowing in packages, particularly of large size, is very considerable; that the argument relative to the facility of procuring bags can apply to British colonies only, and not to the Dutch Island of Java, nor to the districts in India and Sumatra, where the pepper is procured from the natives,—ignorant of British Revenue-Laws, and attached to the course of business practised for a great length of time. That no similar restrictions being imposed on the Dutch trade in coffee, from Java to Holland, nor generally on that of foreign nations to whom India and Sumatra are opened, the vexations and losses arising therefrom fall, exclusively, on the British trader, and operate as an additional motive to carry the Indian trade, from Great Britain to other countries; and these restrictions are the less necessary as applied to vessels importing into the United Kingdom under the regulations of the Manifest Act; for, if an infraction of the Revenue-Laws was contemplated, British and foreign vessels, bound to the Continent of Europe, and not subjected to such restrictions, would furnish stronger temptations to illicit traffic.

In respectfully soliciting their Lordships' attention to these observations, I trust that the wishes of the East India Merchants will be favourably received, and provision made accordingly in the Warehousing Bill, which, it is understood, will be brought forward next session, under the sanction of the Board of Trade.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedience humble servant,

E. FLETCHER,

Chairman of the East India Trade Committee.

Committee-Room, 53, Old Broad-Street, June 28, 1822.

C.—London, 13th April, 1821.

At a Meeting of London Merchants and agents connected with the trade to the East Indies, the following Resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1st.—That, previously to the arrangement of the duties on sugars

in 1812, the advantage enjoyed by West India sugars was 3s. per cwt. —viz.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Duty on East India sugars.....permanent	1	2	6			
Dittotemporary	0	10	6	1	13	0
Duty on West India sugars....permanent	1	0	6			
Duty.....temporary	0	9	6	1	10	0
Difference	0	3	0			

2d.—That the said arrangement was framed before the results of the free trade could be known, and, consequently, without experience of its wants, its extent, and its benefits, which all imperatively call for a restoration of the old duty, rather than an addition to the new.

3d.—That the duty then increased to 10s. per cwt. in favour of West India sugars, was intended for their protection in the home trade, and not for the exclusion of the East India sugars.

4th.—That the argument grounded on the disproportionate reduction of East India freights is fallacious.*

First,—Because the present extreme depression is accidental, and must be temporary; arising from the extraordinary influx of shipping upon the opening of the free trade and the close of the war in 1814—15.†

Secondly,—Because the East India trade is not governed by the regular system of plantation culture, shippers and ship-owners in the India trade being distinct, and excess of Shipping in India enhancing the prime cost of produce.

5th.—That the present low price of East India sugars in the home-market, affords no just criterion upon which to legislate, it being impossible such prices can continue; the average loss on importations of sugar, during the last three years, exceeding 33 per cent.

6th.—That, since 1813, freights of sugar from the West Indies have fallen from 10s. to 5s. per cwt. and the cost of plantation supplies from the mother country and America has been reduced, and these reductions, not affecting British India, afford additional protection to the West India, interests exclusively.

7th.—That, in point of fact, the consumption of West India sugars has not decreased since the partial introduction of East India sugars into the market.

8th.—That the actual cost even of meddling East India sugar stands as follows:

At 10 Sa. Rs. per Br. Maund, at 2s. 6d.....	34s. per cwt.
Add freight	6
Charges	2s. 6d.
Protecting duty	37
	79s. 6d.

They sell at 33s. }
Duty.... 37 }

Loss.. 9s. 6d. per cwt.

9th.—That, in mixed cargoes are indispensable to the trade with the East Indies, the light goods, such as cotton, indigo, silk, safflower, drugs, &c. must be enhanced in price, to cover the heavy loss on the gruff articles, if once excluded from the home-consumption by increased duties, a result highly detrimental to the British manufacturers.

10th.—That, supposing the law to be hereafter relaxed, and indirect imports of Asiatic produce from the Continent of Europe to be permitted, the trade will then centre in foreign-ports, to the serious injury of the British merchant, manufacturer, and all dependent on him for employment, and of the public revenue.

11th.—That the growing importance of the trade with British India, affording so extensive and improving a market for British Manufactures, claims the protection of His Majesty's Government, more particularly at a time when serious difficulties exist in obtaining returns, and when British piece goods are gradually displacing the native manufacture.‡

12th.—That the act of 1813, allowing the import of the produce of foreign Asiatic states, through the medium of British India, with a view to encourage the consumption of British manufactures in those countries, and, also, to furnish a mean of supplying dead weight to the British trade from Western India, has operated most beneficially in accomplishing these objects, but that the proposed prohibitory duty on foreign Asiatic

* Assumed from 18s. to 6s. per cwt. on sugar.

† Likely to level to £10, to £12 per ton out and home, or not under 9s. per cwt. home on sugar.

‡ The importation in Calcutta, alone, of British manufactured cotton goods increased, from 1813 to 1821, from £10,000 to £300,000, and the exchange was reduced from 2s. 8d. to 2s. 4d. per S. R.

sugars, will materially defeat these views of the Legislature, by diminishing the means of trading with the Eastern Archipelago, Penang, and the new settlement of Singapore.

13.b.—That we deprecate the proposal of equalizing the duty on East India sugars, of quality similar to clayed West India sugars, being convinced it will prove impracticable in execution, and involve importers and buyers in vexatious embarrassments whilst the quantity is too insignificant to affect the West India interest or the revenue.

At a Meeting at the City of London Tavern, on the 17th of April, 1821, the following Resolutions were passed unanimously.

1st.—Moved by R. C. BAZETT, Esq. seconded by G. G. DE H. LARPENT, Esq. That this meeting deprecate in the strongest manner any addition whatever to the existing duty on the importation of East India Sugars for home consumption, being convinced that it will prove highly injurious to the interests of the merchant, Manufacturer, ship-owner, and the numerous classes dependent on them.

2d.—Moved by E. FLETCHER, Esq. seconded by J. H. PALMER, Esq. That the proposed alteration in the mode of classing East India sugars, and of subjecting the finer qualities to the additional duty levied on clayed sugars, will prove in operation most vexatious and embarrassing to all parties interested in the trade to the East Indies.

3d.—Moved by W. CRAWFORD, Esq. seconded by R. RICHARDS, Esq. That a Petition be presented to the Honourable the House of Commons against any addition to, or alteration of the existing duty on East India sugars.

4th.—Moved by J. FORBES MITCHELL, Esq. seconded by G. LYALL, Esq. That the Petition now drawn out be signed by the Meeting, and left for signatures at the City of London Tavern, until Saturday, the 28th instant.

J. ALEXANDER, Chairman.

Moved by J. FORBES MITCHELL, Esq. seconded by H. BLANSHARD, Esq. that the Thanks of this Meeting are due to J. ALEXANDER, Esq. for his conduct in the Chair, and his attention, generally, to this subject.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Merchants, Agents, Ship-Owners, and others, interested in the Trade to the East Indies, and resident in London.

Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioners are extensively engaged as Merchants, Agents, and Ship-Owners, in the Trade to the East Indies.

That your Petitioners are informed a Bill is now pending before your Honourable House to regulate the duties to be hereafter paid on the importation of sugar for home-consumption, and that certain additions to and alterations of the existing duties are intended to be introduced therein, with a view still farther to protect the interests of His Majesty's plantations in the West Indies.

That your Petitioners are firmly convinced such alterations and additions will altogether exclude sugars, the produce of His Majesty's territories and dominions in the East Indies, from the home consumption market to the serious injury of the native population of India, and of the shipping, manufacturing, and commercial interests of the empire, now so deeply involved in the free trade to the East Indies.

That, prior to the commencement of the free trade in 1813, the difference between the duties levied on the West and East India sugars, was 3s. per cwt. only, but was increased in 1813-14, to 10s. per cwt. in favour of the former; and that your Petitioners are prepared to prove the same relative protection is now afforded as was intended to be given by the said additional duty in 1814.

That your Petitioners are under the necessity of bringing sugar from the East Indies, that being the only article on which they can depend for dead weight; and mixed cargoes of heavy and light goods being indispensable to the said trade.

That your Petitioners are prepared to prove the average losses sustained by them, for the last three years, on their importations of sugar, exceed 30 per cent. on the prime cost.

That the total quantity of East India sugar consumed in the home-market has never exceeded, in any one year, more than 2 to 3 per cent. on the importations from the West Indies.

That the consequences of excluding from the home-market an article so important as East India sugar, will be to drive the East India trade to foreign countries, or so to enhance the prices of light goods, such as cotton, indigo, silk, and drugs, as to inflict the most serious injury on the British manufacturer, the merchant, the ship-owner, and all the numerous classes dependent upon them.

That a further consequence will be to place the home-market at the mercy of the West India planters, and to increase the price to the home-consumer and to the refiner.

That your petitioners are ready to prove to your Honourable House the great and growing importance of the free trade with British India, which is every day opening fresh channels for the consumption of British manufactures amongst vast regions and immense population.

That your Petitioners can prove, by official documents, the increase since 1813, of the importation of British cotton goods into Bengal alone, showing an increase in the value of the same from £10,000 to £300,000.

That your Petitioners can prove, by respectable testimony, that the British cotton goods are displacing the native manufactures, and that the inhabitants of some of the Eastern islands are already clothed in British goods.

That sugar is a staple commodity of Bengal, and of the said islands; and that no one axiom in political economy is sounder than this, that the nation that will not buy the produce of other countries, cannot expect to sell her own produce or manufactures to them.

That deeply impressed with a sense of the great importance of the present question, and convinced that the additional duty imposed in 1813, on East India Sugars, without experience of the real nature and importance of the trade to the East Indies, should rather be diminished than increased. Your Petitioners humbly appeal to the wisdom of your Honourable House to protect their interests, bound up in those of the empire at large, and pray your Honourable House not to suffer any addition or alteration whatever to be made in the existing duty on sugar imported from the East Indies for home-consumption, and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

London, 17th of April, 1821.

D.—From Treasury Minutes.

GENTLEMEN,

"I have it in command to acquaint you that it was the understanding that East India sugars, imported previous to the 5th April, 1822, should be allowed to be warehoused and taken out for home consumption, under the regulations of the Warehousing Act, on payment of the old duties; and I am commanded by my Lords to authorize you to receive the old duties on sugars so imported accordingly, and their Lordships' warrant shall be transmitted."

25th March, 1822.

(Signed)

S. R. LUSHINGTON.

To the Commissioners of Customs, England and Scotland.

E.—To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Merchants, Agents, Ship-Owners, and others, interested in the Trade to the East Indies, and resident in London,

Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioners are extensively engaged in the trade of the East Indies.

That your Petitioners understand that it has been proposed to your Honourable House to remove the restrictions which have hitherto confined the trade of the West India colonies to the mother country, and that Bills have been ordered to be brought in to extend the commercial intercourse of those colonies with the United States of America, with independent Spanish America, and the continent of Europe.

That your Petitioners are cordial friends to every measure which, proceeding on fair and impartial grounds, has, for its principle, the removal of those restrictions which, at the present moment, fetters the commerce of this country.

That your Petitioners, actuated by these sentiments, indulge a confident hope that your Honourable House will not confine its views to the West India colonies, but that, consistently with the same sound commercial principles, the East India trade, the British Empire in India, and the people of the United Kingdom, will be forthwith relieved from the burden of the protecting duty of ten shillings per cwt. on sugars imported from the East Indies, over and above the duty levied on sugars imported from the West Indies.

That your Petitioners must consider the measure now in progress, unless accompanied with such relief, to be partial in its operation; and, therefore, fraught with injustice to them, to the population of British India, to all persons in any manner connected with it, and to the United Kingdom in general.

That when the said protecting duty was granted, with a view of securing a preference in the home-market, to the West India planters, the main argument, employed in defence of the measure, was, their being excluded from foreign markets, with the exception of ports south of Cape Finisterre, under certain regulations; that now, therefore, when the range of the world is afforded them for the sale of their produce and the purchase of their supplies this preference should cease.

That, continuing to the West Indians the virtual monopoly of the home-market, whilst their sugars are allowed to enter into direct competition with the East India sugars in foreign markets, will confer an undue advantage on the former, at the expense of the latter,

That your Petitioners are clearly of opinion, that the retention of the protecting duty in question will prove an injury to the people of the United Kingdom, by its obvious tendency to enhance the price of sugar, an article of such general consumption amongst all classes of the community.

That it will be further highly injurious to the merchants, manufacturers, and ship-owners, engaged in the trade between this country and India, by crippling their means of successfully prosecuting the same.

That the use of sugar, as a dead weight to ships returning from India, is almost essential to the existence of the trade with that country. Rice and saltpetre, the only other articles of India produce adapted to that purpose, being in very limited demand, a duty to protect domestic agriculture being imposed on the former, and the continuance of peace greatly narrowing the consumption of the latter.

That authentic information has been laid before your Honourable House, of the large increase of the demand for British manufactures on the part of our India population, a demand limited only by the difficulty of procuring returns.

That the deprivation therefore of the other material article of dead weight, i. e. sugar, tends to aggravate this evil, and to check the increase of what promises to become one of the most valuable branches of British commerce.

That the important manufacture of refined sugars, in this country, for export, will materially suffer by the diversion of part of the supply of the raw material from the West Indies, under the operation of the proposed measure, as the British refiner will thereby be unable to enter into competition with foreign refiners, unless the supply from the East Indies be encroached.

That the said protecting duty does, moreover, inflict a serious injury on the great body of the people of Hindostan, who are entitled, as British subjects, to a fair participation in the home market, and who possess the further claim to the consideration of your Honourable House, that they provide for their own protection and civil government, and aid instead of burdening the resources of the state.

That, in estimating the comparative importance of the two branches of British commerce, which, by the partiality of the proposed measure, are brought into competition, the immense difference in the population of the East and West Indies should not be overlooked, as the trade with the East Indies is to meet the growing demand of a population of one hundred millions; whilst that with our West India colonies is confined to a population of only seven or eight hundred thousand, and must necessarily be diminished if a free intercourse be permitted with America and foreign Europe.

Your Petitioners, therefore, deeply impressed with the correctness of these opinions, implore your Honourable House, whilst considering the proposed measure for the benefit of the West India planters, not to overlook the other great and more important interests involved in the question; and they respectfully submit to the justice of Parliament, that the removal of the restrictions on West India commerce should be accompanied with a repeal of the ten shillings per cwt. protecting duty on sugars imported from the East Indies.

F.—At a Meeting of Merchants, Agents, and others interested in East India Shipping and the Trade of India, held at the Office of the East India Trade Committee, in Broad-Street, on the 18th June, 1822. Edward Fletcher, Esq. in the Chair, the following Resolutions were agreed to:

1st.—That this Meeting have considered the Bill now pending in Parliament for the regulation of the East India trade, in connexion with the measures in progress for removing the restrictions on the trade of the West Indies.

2d.—That this Meeting are decidedly favourable to any measures tending, without injustice to others, to facilitate the intercourse between Great Britain and British India, and founded on the principle of free competition in commerce.

3d.—That the measures in question, whilst they affect to have in view that object, and to rest on this principle, are in themselves unjust and inconsistent, by omitting to give a reciprocity to East India shipping with other British shipping, and to East India sugars with West India sugars.

4th.—That the owners of East India shipping, by the Act 55th Geo. III. cap. 116, were deprived of the right previously exercised by them, and now enjoyed by every colony and dependency of the British Empire, viz. that of obtaining a general British register, on the production of a certificate, that the ship for which it is required was built within such colony or dependency.

5th.—That, at the time of the passing of the above Act, it was understood that the country trade, within the limits of the Company's Charter, would be reserved exclusively to the East India shipping, as an equivalent for the loss of the privilege of a general register.

6th.—That, by a legal construction subsequently given to the Act 54th Geo. III. chap. 34, the country trade has been thrown open to

British shipping of 350 tons and upwards, and by the bill now in progress through Parliament, this limitation is intended to be given up, without any reciprocal stipulation in favour of East India shipping, which remain as heretofore deprived of a general British register.

7th.—That the sugars from British India are charged with a duty for home consumption of 10s. per cwt. over and above the duty levied on West India sugars, and that such additional duty operates to the exclusion of the coarse inferior sugars of India.

8th.—That the mode by which Act the 1st and 2d Geo. IV. cap. 105, is about to be enforced by the Customs, imposes a further additional duty of 5s. per cwt. (in all 15s. per cwt. on Bengal white sugars, by denominating them clayed sugars which will ultimately exclude the fine white India sugars also, from the home market.

9th.—That the chief ground on which the West Indians rested their claim to protecting duties, was, their being affected by the restrictions of the colonial system from which the East Indies is exempted.

10th.—That this Meeting, always prepared to question the justice and expediency of such protecting duties, even during the existence of these colonial restrictions, now that the wisdom of the legislature has relieved the West Indies, from all the practical injuries, occasioned thereby, must consider themselves justly entitled to call for the repeal of the said protecting duties.

11th.—That the claims of the West Indians, arising from their alleged investment of capital in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar, can be justly preferred by the older colonies only, certainly not by Demerara; and if admissible in any shape, are equally valid against every part of the British empire as against the East Indies on whom the burthen should not exclusively fall.

12th.—That, as concerns the commerce with British India, by depriving so distant a trade of this most important article, of dead weight, by narrowing the means of obtaining returns for British manufactures, and by contracting the channels, of remittance for the fortunes of the civil and military servants of the company and others, the exclusion of Indian sugars from the home-market will prove most impolitic and injurious and will affect every class of persons connected with British India, whether merchants, manufacturers, ship-owners or annuitants.

13th.—That, as concerns the natives of British India, by depriving them of the best market for a great and valuable production of their soil, by impeding the natural course of their industry, already diverted from their native manufactures in consequence of the exclusion of those fabrics from the home market by heavy duties, and, above all, by preventing the development of the vast resources of British India, by British skill and capital, the exclusion of East India sugars, is equally impolitic and unjust.

14th.—That, by preventing that mutual interchange of respective commodities by which alone a profitable trade between two countries is maintained by enhancing the price of the raw material to the British refiners, and by narrowing in consequence the consumption of so important an article as sugar, the exclusion of East India sugars injures the growing trade with India, impedes the progress of our refineries, and affects the comforts of every class of the community.

15th.—That this Meeting earnestly call upon the Court of Proprietors of East India stock, as the natural protectors of British India, to insist on a reciprocity of advantages being granted to East India shipping, and East India sugars, before they concede any part of their chartered rights.

16th.—That this Meeting pledge themselves, to use every exertion to obtain these objects, and they confidently appeal to the merchants, manufacturers, and ship-owners, interested in the India trade, to the civil and military servants of the company, and lastly, to the great body of the people for their support, in a cause so just and so universally important.

E. FLETCHER, Chairman.

G.—Resolutions adopted by a General Court of Proprietors of East India Stock, held at the East India House, on the 19th of June, 1822.

"That the existing limitation as to the size of vessels employed in the East India trade is a part of the compact with the East India Company, to which the faith of Parliament is pledged.

"That this Court cannot consent to the relinquishment of this part of the compact, unless reciprocal concessions are obtained by the restoration of East India built ships to the right of full British registry, and by the admission of sugars from British India, for home consumption, and equal terms with sugars produced in other dependencies of the British empire.

"That this Court are induced to adopt these resolutions, not merely on commercial grounds, as affecting the people of the United Kingdom, but on behalf of one hundred millions of our fellow subjects in India, whose rights and interests are involved therein, and which it is the bounden duty of the East India Company to protect."

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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Manufacturing Salt from Earth.

WITH AN ENGRAVING. — PLATE XCVI.*

SIR,

To the Editor of the Journal.

During a few months spent in the Eastern Districts between Chittagong and Dacca, I have to regret that nothing better than the accompanying has come under my observation, worth communicating.

The country is populous, but the inhabitants are scattered in miserable huts; no towns, villages, or substantial dwelling places whatever; one chief reason for which is, the country being almost entirely inundated in the rainy season: half the houses are swept away by the deluge, which causes a renewal of them almost every season. The chief produce is rice, of an inferior quality; which is in great abundance and sold cheap, at about one rupee per maund. There is nothing of the horse breed to be seen; or wheel carriages of any description: no roads excepting foot paths; the only resource left for the traveller is a ton-jon or palanquin, which must be provided elsewhere. Sooderam, or Nonkolly, as it is called from a Kal or Creek of the same name, is the principal place, being the residence of the Civil Authorities; and has been much improved by the late Superintendent: new roads of a proper breadth have been constructed, and are in considerable progress from Sooderam to the principal ghauts and places of commerce; which will not only add to the comfort of the inhabitants, but be of essential importance to traders and travellers through the district. At convenient distances they have *haats*, or markets, commonly in a small field, where they assemble on fixed days, generally twice a week, and barter their commodities; cloth, rice, fowls, fish, some cotton, and sundry other articles: their chief currency is cowries and rupees: picas are current in Sooderam, but in no other part of the district which has come within my range.

For a few months in the dry season, which commences early in November, a great part of the population are employed in making of salt from earth; the simple process of which may not be uninteresting to those who have not had the opportunity of witnessing it: a sketch of which, in its progressive stages, with a description thereof, I beg to enclose, as a moiety of tribute to the JOURNAL, should you think it deserving of an impression taken therefrom.

Description of the mode of Manufacturing Salt from Earth, as practised in the Eastern Districts, between Dacca and Chittagong.

Their first plan of setting to work is, by opening water cuts, and clearing the branch nullahs from the adjacent rivers, and letting the water at high-tides into the salt grounds, as convenient as possible to the intended Barrows; which they dam up and enclose, reserving it for after purposes.

They afterwards make a Circle, (Fig. 1.) (*Barrow Beetah*) about 16 feet in diameter, on the solid of the surface, and raise it about a foot high with earth; which is well trodden down and beaten with large bamboos, until it is quite firm and solid; always preserving a gentle dip or inclination from the edge down to the centre. It is then well clayed and smoothed, and left for a short time to dry; when a narrow slit or trench is cut from the centre to about 5 feet from the outer edge of the circle, where a round well, (Fig. 2.) (*Andarah*) is dug, about two or two and half feet in diameter, and three and a half or 4 feet deep, chambered at the bottom, being a reservoir for the salt water when drained from the earth. In the trench abovementioned, is placed a Bamboo tube (*Barrow Chung*) extending from the centre of the circle with a very gentle slope also to the well (Fig. 2); when the bamboo is placed, the trench is again filled up, and small branch wood laid all over the circle, particularly in the centre; forming

* As some of the Numbers used to discriminate the different objects represented in the Plate, are hardly distinguishable from the dark ground on which they are put, we shall endeavour to supply the deficiency: Figure 6th is the large one at the bottom of the Plate to the right hand. Figure 7th is the large one resembling a square including a circle, placed above Figure 3d.

a kind of arch over the mouth of the pipe to prevent its getting choked: the wood is then covered over with thick straw, or small reeds, called by the Natives *Moida*, which grows in great abundance throughout the *Churs*, (lands gained from the Sea,) it is also used as fuel in making the salt and various other purposes: this completes the foundation of the barrow.

While the above is going on, others are employed in scraping the surface of the earth about an inch, or an inch and a half deep with *Anchrahs*, (Fig. 3.) which raked together in small heaps as at E. with a *Pates*, (Fig. 4.) each heap being a load for two bearers, which is carried on a *Chungah* (Fig. 5.) and thrown into the barrow over the *Moida*, and is also trodden down, the edge of the barrow being always kept about a foot higher than the earth, to contain the water which is brought from the water-cuts, by bearers in earthen vessels (Here the mussuck is not in use,) and thrown into the barrow over the earth, until it is brim-full. (see Fig. 6.) when it is left to drain into the receiving well (Fig. 2.) where it comes from the bamboo spout quite pure, and as salt as Lot's wife. I have at different times had the curiosity to taste it. When the complement of earth in the barrow is completely drained, it is dug out and supplied with new earth: thus the barrow soon rises to a considerable height, which renders it inconvenient; it is then abandoned, and a new one resorted to. There are generally three or four barrows to a *Choolah* or Salt Pao, which is constructed in the following manner, at a convenient distance from the barrows:—

The *Choolah* (Fig 7.) is formed from a solid square mass of clay, raised about 3 feet in height, on which is drawn a perfect circle. This is dug out and neatly graduated down to a concave ellipsis, flattened at the bottom, which is a foot broad and the whole width of the circle, with a small arched door at each end, as shewn in the Drawing: it is then smoothly clayed over, and left sufficient time to dry. This oven, as it may be called, is only a fire-place, over which a dome of small earthen-pots, (see Fig 8.) about 1,200 in number, are neatly piled by one man, in the short space of an hour and twenty minutes,—without any mould or inner support. He stands on the outer edge of the circle, and builds quicker than one man can supply him with *Putnees* (Fig 9) from a basket-convenient, and two others with clay; by which they are so surprising cemented and bound together that as he gets two or three rows laid, it is sufficiently strong for him to set his foot on and build afterwards, climbing upon it until he closes in and finishes his dome. At the commencement of building the pots, they use a ceremony, by placing a vessel with rice and some fruit under them, and the whole party calls aloud on the Deity to prosper the work. When completed, the pots on the dome are filled with salt-water from the Well, Fig. 2, and a fire of large wood, straw, or *moida* is kindled; and the salt-water boiled until it evaporates:—the salt is then taken out of the pots, with a small ladle or spoon; when emptied, they are replenished with salt-water, and kept going in the manner described, until they give way, which happens every four or five days: then the dome must necessarily be renewed. They have generally four or five boilings in the twenty-four hours, called *paths*; each boiling of a dome of the above description, produces at an average, about a maund and a half of salt, which is of a light grey colour: it is thrown in a heap, and stamped all around with a wooden stamp by the Company's *Chur* Andulleahs. The old pots are also broken up small, and thrown into the barrow, amongst the earth, so that not a particle of salt adhering to them is lost. When the *Choolah* is finished, it is enclosed with a shade, composed of bamboos and *moida*, as at (A.) open at three of the corners. A house (B) is also built for the *Choukedar*, or person who has charge of the work, and a small house (C.) (commonly circular,) for dressing and eating their victuals, and, lastly, *Chur-Gonde*, (D.) being a house for depositing the Salt previous to its being sent to the Company's *Gola*, or store-house.

The several hundreds of salt-works, which I have seen, they are all invariably on one plan, and nearly of the same size.

I am, Sir, Your most obedient Servant,
Noa-Kolly, January 23, 1823. J. T.

Dum-Dum Theatre.

Accidental circumstances prevent us from noticing in to-day's Paper, the entertainment on Friday evening, so fully as we intended; but we would not have it to be thought for a single day, that the exertions of the Dum-Dum Performers to entertain the Public, were regarded with indifference. The new Melodrama of "Belvidere Castle," founded on the Novel of OLD MORTALITY, contains several fine characters, and incidents of great dramatic interest; but we must confess, there is a woeful falling off, when compared with our previous conception of the Story, as told by the inimitable author of Waverley. BURLEIGH, MORTON, BOTHWELL and CUDDIE HEADRIGG, especially the latter, were upon the whole good characters; yet not without many glaring defects. MAJOR BELLENDEN and CLAVERHOUSE, were complete failures; and LORD EVANDALE and MISS EDITH devoid of interest. The audience, which was very respectable, seemed, however, to be well entertained; and we think the Piece would bear repetition.

Value of Missionary Efforts.

Sir,

To the Editor of the Journal.

The Extracts from the Sydney Papers in the JOURNAL of this morning, furnish intelligence of a very gratifying kind; and few can read it without being struck with the inestimable value of these philanthropic efforts making by Christian Missionaries, in the different quarters of the world. This new impulse given to the spread of light and civilization, must, at no great distance of time, produce results highly beneficial to mankind; and, like the glorious Art of Printing, will form an important feature in the modern history of the world.

In former times knowledge was locked up in the cabinets of the wealthy, or in the minds of the learned. Books could not be procured without immense expense, and consequently their stores of wisdom could only be communicated to a few. By the typographic art, copies may be multiplied at a very small charge, and there was only wanting individuals to distribute them over the world, and aid by personal instruction the diffusion of the knowledge they contain. In this respect, the exertions of the Missionaries are vastly useful; and religion, morality, and social improvement, must soon follow their footsteps.

The manner in which the labours of the Missionaries are spoken of, and the regard manifested for the Aborigines of the country, in a GAZETTE printed under the immediate control of the Australian Government, is highly creditable to the Colonial Authorities. We see no horror of the sudden change of opinion that may result; and indeed, how can *Christians* be hostile to a change of opinion in those who are ignorant of the truths of the Gospel? or think a change can take place too soon? We find no contemptuous sneers at the rights of Mieters and Coolies, or of those who hold a rank equally humble. On the contrary, it is allowed, that the "poor Aborigines," such is the sympathetic phrase employed—the "poor Aborigines" have the same rights to civilization and the enjoyments of Christianity, in common with others of the human race! "For," continues the writer, "they are fellow travellers through the same world, as well as indisputable heirs of the like eternity, and their happiness in this life as well as hereafter depends chiefly upon those who possess the means to promote and carry into effect those heavenly designs for which property and influence have been ever bestowed."

The ameliorating effects of Christianity are in this eminent-ly conspicuous. While the pride of birth or of rank or of power teach some men to look on their humble fellow-creatures as beings of an inferior order, who have no rights or feelings in common with themselves, and are therefore unworthy of regard; Christianity tells us to love our neighbour and do to others as we would be done by. The contumely of the proud is rebuked by the mild spirit of the Gospel; and the lowly are no longer viewed with contempt in consequence of the humble sphere where acci-

dent has placed them, but as children of the same Almighty Creator, whom it is our duty to love and cherish as brethren. Nature has indeed established this bond of union between all the Members of the human race, but the corruptions of the world having in a great measure destroyed the fraternal tie of sympathy, the influence of the Gospel was necessary to restore it.

One species of philanthropy necessarily favouring another, the utility of Missionary exertions can no where be long confined to the main object, the propagation of Christianity. In this country, we see what they have done by the institution of schools and the establishment of publications discussing general questions with a view to the improvement of the Native Population. Placed as on an eminence raised above the selfish cares of interest and ambition which disturb the vision of other men, the Missionary regards the country by which he is surrounded as the field which it is his duty in every manner to cultivate and prepare for the good seed he has come to sow. The introduction of many useful arts must follow in his train, and even should his doctrines be rejected, he can improve by setting the example of propriety of manners and purity of life. The leaving his Native country, and encountering dangers by sea and land to benefit his fellow-creatures must often strike astonishment into the minds of men who never before formed any conception of such disinterestedness, and excite them to cherish such feelings towards their neighbours. While those who are so happy as to embrace the benevolent doctrines of Christianity must regard universal charity as a duty to their Creator.

In the North and in the South, in the East and in the West, do the labours of these beneficent and pious men extend the benefits of knowledge and the blessings of religion. The snows of Siberia and the burning sands of Africa are marked with their footsteps; the dreary wilds of Tartary and the islands scattered in the pacific ocean do not escape their pious care; they brave death in the humid plains of India, and extend the hand of fellowship to the Newhollander whom they raise from the dust and teach a new and a better life. These are achievements worthy of rational and immortal beings! When the march of armies and the din of battle shall be no more thought of; when the triumph of conquerors and the downfall of Princes shall be forgotten, the early Missionaries who first sowed the seeds of divine wisdom will be remembered; every isle of the ocean and every corner of the earth shall continue to present monuments of the deeds of the first who diffused the rays of light and led the way to the glorious dawn of knowledge and civilization which awaits the world.

Come, bright Improvement! on the ear of Time,
And rule the spacious world from clime to clime:
Thy handmaid arts shall every wild explore,
Trace every wave, and culture every shore.
On Erie's banks, where Tygers steal along,
And the dread Indian chants a dismal song,
Where human fiends on midnight errands walk,
And bathe in brains the murd'rous tomahawk;
There shall the flocks on thymy pasture stray,
And shepherd's dance at Summer's op'ning day;
Each wand'ring genius of the lonely glen
Shall start to view the flattering haunts of men;
And silence watch, on woodland height around,
The village curfew, as it tolls profound.

I am, &c.

Calcutta, April 24.

A READER.

Marriage.

On the 16th instant, Mr. JOHN HODGINS, of the Honorable Company's Marine, to Miss ANN WALKER.

Births.

At Gorakhpore, on the 13th instant, the Lady of F. CURRIE, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Son.

At Poona, on the 29th ultimo, the Lady of J. B. SIMON, Esq. of a Daughter.

At Bombay, on the 6th instant, the Lady of Lieutenant W. A. TAYLOR, of the Engineers, of a Daughter.

Asmodeus's Apology.*To the Editor of the Journal.*

Sir,

So far from my being offended at "A SPECTATOR'S" severe reproof for my "illiberal allusions," as he is pleased to term them, I assure you it has afforded me much amusement; and I now, with all due contrition express my sorrow at having taken, that for sense in his first Letter, which, according to his last Letter in Saturday's JOURNAL, has no meaning at all. I acknowledge, however, I might have made some allowances for Eastern amplification.—Since "A SPECTATOR" seems so fond of appealing to the judgement of the Public, let them be the arbitrators.

In his first Letter your Correspondent says, "I had not the heart to advance close to the fire:" what would he wish the public to understand by that?—I was not myself on the spot, to observe who did, or did not assist in rescuing the property of the unfortunate who were burnt out at the late dreadful fire, and I know nothing of A SPECTATOR, nor do I make allusions to any individual, my observations are simply grounded on his own words.

As to the second paragraph of the letter, intended as a reproof to me, I am willing to allow that I may be mistaken as to A SPECTATOR being a *Burrah Baboo*; nevertheless the appeal he has made to the generosity of the Public would, in my humble opinion, be strengthened, were he to go a step farther in his laudable exertions, by becoming an active, instead of a passive, Philanthropist; he might surely ere this have opened a subscription and left it on your Library table, (where I called yesterday with the intention of adding my mite;) and if his means will not admit of his subscribing a Thousand Rupees, let him go as far as his circumstances will allow.

I now conclude with my assurances to A SPECTATOR that I highly applaud his motives for bringing the late fatal conflagration to the notice of the Public, and proposing a subscription for the relief of the Sufferers; though in his zeal to describe the scene of Distress he witnessed, he loses himself, and thereby induces a person to think that he is only a Philanthropist behind the curtain. I am willing to give him every credit for his exertions, which from his letter in your JOURNAL of Friday last, are I believe stimulated by generous and disinterested motives; and when once he has opened his proposed Subscription, he shall not look in vain in the list for the name of

Saturday, April 26, 1823.

ASMODEUS.

Account of Juggernaut.

Missionary Intelligence.—Quarterly Circular.—No. XIII.—Continued from the JOURNAL of the 14th instant, page 608.

The food prepared for sale, or bespoken by the inhabitants, is not brought into the large tower, but collected in the Begue Munder, where it can be seen and sanctified by the idol from his distant throne.

In addition to this food, a very considerable extra quantity is allowed for the great festivals: and in order to make this superabundance as profitable as possible, the priests have decided that nothing can pollute the food prepared in the temple—it may be conveyed to any place—it may be touched by a Mussulman, or a Christian, without becoming unfit for a Hindoo. Nothing can be more convenient than such a belief, as Hindoos in general must eat their food where it is cooked, and a thousand things may pollute it. The consequence is, that the cooks are employed to prepare food for most of the pilgrims, at a price which varies according to the demand, and is always highest during the festivals. It is said that a few days before the festival of the Ruth Jatra, food is cooked within the court of the temple for at least 100,000 pilgrims; and it will easily be credited that on these occasions, the 400 families of cooks have full employment. The potters make earthen pots of three sizes; the food is carried away in them, and they from a kind of standard measure; and as none but new pots can be used, the consumption is very great, and supports a great many families. The only interruption to this cooking, is during the time the idol is travelling in his car to the place where he was formed, and returning to the temple about a fortnight in all.

There are twelve festivals celebrated at Juggernaut during the year, but by far the most important season is the Ruth Jatra: when the idol is placed on a car, and visits the place where he was originally form-

ed, called Jannuckpore. This happens either in June, or July, and the number of pilgrims who attend, is very much regulated by the season: When the new moon of Assaur occurs early in June, there is a prospect of fair weather, and about 150,000 are supposed to attend the ceremonies; but when it is late in the month, many are deterred, by the dread of encountering the periodical rains, which destroy a great many of the poor deluded creatures, the greater part of whom are exposed night and day to the inclemency of the weather. A good many Hindoos undertake this pilgrimage during the driest weather, and arrive to celebrate the Chundann Jatra; on which occasion Juggernaut despatches several idols to partake of a bath of sandal-wood water, prepared on purpose, in a little temple on a neighbouring tank. The ceremony closes by a procession of these petty idols on rafts, which are floated three times round the tank, or large reservoir of water. The Rajah of Khoordah, who is the hereditary high priest, is expected to attend, and perform certain ceremonies; but the present Rajah is a very timid man, and at the last festival, in May 1822, he could not be prevailed upon to risk himself on the water. The priests and attendants of the idol, during these great occasions, always have small sticks or canes in their hands, which they use with very little ceremony. On the last celebration of the Chundann Jatra, the pilgrims thought that the blows were rather too hard, and too frequent to be borne patiently; they suddenly wrested the canes out of the hands of the priests, and retaliated pretty smartly, till the brahmins found it prudent to retire, and the festival terminated without any further "fracas."

This constant use of the stick is a remarkable feature during all the great festivals, and joined to the great rapacity of the priests, may easily account for the strong dislike the pilgrims manifest towards all the attendants on the idol. Instead of mentioning the priests with respect, they commonly express the greatest contempt, and accuse them openly of extortion and every kind of vice.

The pilgrims who attend the festival of Chundann Jatra, and wish to remain in order to see the Ruth Jatra, are termed Loll Jattrees; and they pay a much higher tax: viz. 10 rupees to government, and 3 rupees to the priest who brought them, if they come from the northward; and 6 rupees if they come from the southward, and 3 rupees for the priest. This regulation occasions the receipts to be usually greater at this festival than at any other. Forty-three days after its commencement, the Chundann Jatra (ordinarily called the Assan) is celebrated. The idol is brought outside the tower, and placed on an elevated platform within the boundary wall, (but visible from the outside) and is bathed. A great many pilgrims attend this ceremony, and those who wish to remain a fortnight, and see the Ruth Jatra, are termed Neem Lolls. If they come from the northward, they are obliged to pay government 5 rupees; or if from the southward, 3 rupees, and 1 rupee 8 annas to the poudah who brought them: 2 rupees 6 annas is the tax for 6 days.

In 1822 a rich lady made an agreement with the British Collector and on her paying a fixed sum, all the pilgrims who arrived during one day, were admitted without paying.

The Chundann Jatra only lasts a day, after which the idol of Juggernaut is not visible for nearly a fortnight. He is reported sick; but it is understood, that during this time he undergoes a thorough repair, and is fresh painted, &c. When two new moons occur in Assaur, which is said to happen about once in 17 years, a new idol is always made. A neem tree is sought for in the forests, on which no crow or carrion bird was ever perched: it is known to the initiated by certain signs. This is prepared into a proper form by common carpenters, and is then entrusted to certain priests, who are protected from all intrusion: the process is a great mystery. One man is selected to take out of the old idol a small box, containing the spirit, which is conveyed inside the new: the man who does this, is always removed from this world before the end of the year.

Fifteen days after the Chundann Jatra, or on the new moon of the month of Assaur, the grand festival of the Ruth Jatra is celebrated; the usual tax is 2 rupees for government, and 6 annas for the permission to the poudah.

Three raths or cars of wood are prepared for the occasion:—the first has 16 wheels 6 feet in diameter; the platform to receive the idol of Juggernaut is 23 feet square and the whole car is 33 feet high from the ground. The wood work is ornamented with images* and painted; the car has a lofty dome, covered with English woollens of the most gaudy colours; a large wooden image is placed on one side as a charioteer or driver of the car, and several wooden horses are suspended in front of the car, with their legs in the air. Six strong cables are fastened to the rath, by which it is dragged on its journey.—The other two raths are like this, except being a little smaller, one having only 14 wheels, and the other 12.

* It deserves to be noted that all obscene images so commonly seen on similar cars has been removed here, and similar offensive representations have been lately removed also from the outer walls of the temple.

On the 19 June 1822, the temple was opened for the worship of Juggernaut for the first time after his retirement. The concourse of pilgrims is always very great, and the British authorities had taken every precaution to guard against accidents, but as only Hindoos are admitted within the temple, it was necessary to trust to the priests to prevent the ingress of too many pilgrims at once. Unfortunately they neglected this precaution. Men, women, and children, all rushed in the moment the gates were thrown open. When they reached the square building next to the grand tower, they had to descend three steps which were slippery from some holy food having been spilt—18 women were thrown down at the foot of the steps and trampled to death by the crowd in the rear, before any assistance could be rendered. At last with difficulty the gates were again closed, and the bodies were examined; but it was too late. A singular difficulty occurred; the dead bodies of strangers are only touched by men of very low caste; and people of this description are not admitted into the temple. If a corpse were carried through one of the gates, it would be a very bad omen for whoever might pass through afterwards. To obviate all these difficulties whilst the temple was emptied of pilgrims, the dead bodies were removed with hooks and poles, and thrown over the boundary wall like so many dogs. The relations of the poor creatures were observed lamenting their untimely fate, and must have felt shocked at the mode of removing them from the temple.

On the 21st June 1822, the town of Pooree Juggernaut was filled with pilgrims; at noon every one crowded to the temple to see Juggernaut, his brother Bulbudra, and his sister Shubudra, carried to their raths or cars, which were drawn up close to the gate.

A loud shout from the multitude announced the opening of the gates, and the approach of Juggernaut. A number of priests were dragging slowly the ponderous and clumsy idol down the steps, stopping very frequently. The manifest helplessness of the block of wood, weakened not the faith of the infatuated pilgrims, and the idol was lifted into his car, amidst the shouts of his votaries, who were eager to worship the image. The idols, Bulbudra and Shubudra, were likewise carried to their raths in the same manner. At sunset the Rajah of Khoorda, hereditary high priest, and master of the Idol's wardrobe, made his way through a prodigious crowd in a palanquin, followed by a large state elephant. All the European ladies and gentlemen mounted on elephants had assembled close to the cars, to observe the ceremonies. The Rajah alighted near the rath of the idol Bulbudra; he was dressed in very plain muslin and barefooted in a very stout priest, led him by the hand, and others surrounded him with sticks in their hands, which they used very freely to keep off the crowd, and, as a further security, his palanquin and elephant were kept close in the rear. The Rajah is a young man, who for the last two years is said to have lost all energy of mind. On this great occasion, he exhibited every symptom of excessive trepidation and alarm. Nothing of a devotional spirit was observable, but a great apprehension of suffering from the crowd. On ascending the car by a sloping platform, he stopped at every third step, looked round, ordered his attendants to remove from the rath many intruders, and was the very image of sulkiness and vexation. Several silver trumpets sounded, and the pilgrims shouted most loudly. When the Rajah reached the top of the platform, he worshipped the idol Bulbudra, and then, with a broom swept the floor all round. He was afterwards presented by the priests with a silver vessel containing essence of sandal-wood, with which he sprinkled the floor; and then presented some offerings to the idol, from whom he received as a mark of honor, a garland of flowers, which the priests took from the images, and put round the Rajah's neck; and the ceremony concluded with the Rajah's prostrating himself flat on the floor before the idol, amidst the shouts of the pilgrims and the piercing notes of the shrill silver trumpets. He then descended slowly from the car, and proceeded barefooted to the car of Juggernaut, and finally to that of his sister Shubudra, where the same ceremonies were performed, and to close his labors for the day, he went behind each car, and endeavored to propel it forward, without which ceremony it could not afterwards be moved. On a signal being given, a most active scene commenced. Several thousand men, each holding a small green branch in his hand, came running up to the raths, clearing their way through the crowd from a considerable distance, in regular files; they soon removed the sloping platforms, each man having first touched the car with his branch. When all was ready, these men, aided by the pilgrims, laid hold of the cables, taking care to keep their faces towards the idol. The rath of Bulbudra was the first moved,—the shrillness of the trumpets, the shouts of the pilgrims, and the creaking of the ponderous wheels, made a most frightful noise. The car was crowded by people, many had crept under, and clung to the large axletrees, and it was impossible to look on, without shuddering with the apprehension that some shocking accidents would happen, whilst so many pilgrims were evidently in imminent danger. Each car was moved but a short distance on that day, and fortunately without the loss of any lives. On the following day the dreaded event was but too awfully realized. A crowd of pilgrims, too poor to pay for admission, had collected at the barrier, and the British Collector on finding that 24 had already died from exposure to rain and want

of food, humanely opened the gate. These poor creatures rushed to worship the idols on the raths, and shewed their zeal by pulling the ropes. It has been observed that they are obliged out of respect for the idol, to walk backward. Six pilgrims stationed close to the car were aiding in pulling a rope which suddenly yielded, having become slacker than the others. These men fell to the ground unheeded by the shouting mob, four of them were instantly crushed to atoms, the fifth had a leg dreadfully mangled, and the sixth fell between two wheels and escaped unhurt. The practice which formerly prevailed of enticing pilgrims to sacrifice their lives by voluntarily throwing themselves under the wheels has happily ceased, and nothing of the kind was attempted. The loss of life, however, occasioned by this deplorable superstition, probably exceeds that of any other. The aged, the weak, the sick, are persuaded to attempt this pilgrimage as a panacea for all evils. The number of women and children is very great. The pilgrims leave their families and all their occupations to travel an immense distance with the delusive hope of obtaining eternal bliss. Their means of subsistence on the road is scanty. Their light clothing and little bodily strength is ill calculated to encounter inclemency of the weather. When they reach the district of Cuttack, they cease to experience the hospitality shewn elsewhere to pilgrims. It is a burthen which the inhabitants could not sustain; and they prefer availing themselves of the increased demand for provisions to augment the price. This difficulty is more severely felt as they approach the temple, till they find scarcely enough left to pay the tax to government, and to satisfy their rapacious brahmin. At Pooree Juggernaut during the great festival, firewood or fuel of any description is scarcely procurable. It is not even customary for the pilgrims to cook their victuals; they are expected to buy holy food, which on such occasions is sold at an enormous price, and of very inferior quality. Whilst the idol is travelling in his car, no rice is cooked, nothing but purchased grain procurable. The weather is often bad and the smallest shelter in only to be had at a heavy expense. The pilgrim on leaving Juggernaut has still a long journey before him, and his means of support are often almost, if not quite exhausted. The work of death then becomes rapid, and the route of the pilgrims may be traced by the bones left by the jackals and vultures. The country near the temple seems suddenly to have been visited by pestilence and famine; dead bodies are seen in every direction; pariah dogs, jackals, and vultures are observed watching the last moments of the dying pilgrim, and not unfrequently hasten his fate. It is true, that there are at Pooree and at Cuttack, Hospitals where the sick may get medicines gratis; but the starving pilgrim is not supplied with food, there is no establishment to carry the sick to the hospital; and at Pooree Juggernaut, by some strange arrangement, the hospital, instead of being entrusted to the Military Surgeon residing at the place, has been put under the Civil Surgeon at Cuttack, who has important duties to perform at the latter place, distant 50 miles. Some charitable Hindoos endeavored to lessen this evil by leaving lands for the purpose of maintaining poor pilgrims, but these benevolent intentions have been defeated by the avarice of those intrusted with the lands; and sufficient attention has not yet been paid by the Civil authorities to these charitable institutions.

There is no doubt that this deadly superstition is a ***** on the country, and tends much to its impoverishment. The loss of valuable labour must be very great, and the Christian who sickens at all the misery generated by this idolatry is naturally desirous of knowing what steps have been pursued by the ***** since divine providence has permitted the district of Cuttack to come under the rule of Christians. It is with no less amazement than deep regret, that he learns that the several regulations which have been enacted, have so completely identified the interests of the temple with those of the ***** that it has all the outward appearance of being under the immediate control and superintendence of the *****.

Commercial Reports.

Note.—It being difficult to quote with preciseness the prices of the following Articles, the mode of stating generally, whether they are at an advance or discount, has been adopted as being sufficient to give a tolerable correct idea of the Market.—The Exchange being at Par.

References.—(P. C.) Prime Cost of the Article as Invoiced at the Manufacturer's prices, exclusive of Freight and Charges.—(A.) Advance on the same.—(D.) Discount.

Broad Cloth, fine,	5	a	0	per cent. A
Broad Cloth, coarse,	P. C.	0	a	0 per cent. D
Flannels,	15	a	20	per cent. D
Hats, Bicknell's,	20	a	25	per cent. D
Chintz,	P. C.	5	a	10 per cent. A
Cutlery, Table,	5	a	10	per cent. A
Earthen-ware,	15	a	20	per cent. A
Glass-ware,	P. C.	0	a	5 per cent. A
Window Glass,	P. C.	0	a	10 per cent. D

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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East India Trade Society.

We feel much pleasure in complying with the request of the **Treasurers of the EAST INDIA TRADE COMMITTEE**, communicated to us by Messrs. Mackenzie and Lvall of the Calcutta Exchange, by giving this conspicuous insertion, in our Asiatic Department, to the Resolutions passed at a Meeting of the Merchants of this City, holden at the Exchange Rooms on the 23d instant; and as we are desirous of giving the Proceedings of both the Committees together, the Proceedings of the London Committee, mentioned in the 6th Article of the Resolutions, will be found in the European Department, in our JOURNAL of to-day, that the friends of Indian Commerce may have the whole before them at once.

By the formation of a Society in Calcutta to co-operate with the Society in London, we perceive the commencement of a new and important era not only of general benefit to the Commerce of India, but of improvement, and the amelioration of her moral, intellectual, and civil condition.

At a Meeting of Merchants, held this 23d of April, 1823, for the purpose of taking into consideration a Letter from John Begbie, Secretary to the East India Trade Committee, and Papers which accompanied the said Letter: **RESOLVED.**

1st.—That it is expedient to co-operate generally in the objects of the Society in London, appointed to watch over the interests concerned in the East India Trade.

2d.—That with the view of co-operation this Meeting shall individually, and also as Members of the Firm to which they respectively belong, transmit to their London Correspondents all such suggestions and information as may appear connected with the interests of East India Trade and Shipping, in order that the same may be made known to the Society at Home.

3d.—That with the view of further co-operation this Meeting shall themselves contribute and will receive contributions from others, towards the support of the East India Trade Society.

4th.—That a Book be opened at the Exchange to receive the subscriptions of all persons who may be inclined to support the Institution; the Amount so subscribed to be collected and remitted by the Treasurer hereafter appointed.

5th.—That this Meeting approving as it does the whole tenor of proceedings adopted by the London Society, see with particular satisfaction their zeal in prosecuting the very important objects of obtaining an Equalization of Duties on East and West India Sugars, and relief from the excessive charge both of time and money incurred at the East India Docks.

6th.—That in order to obtain the co-operation of persons interested in the East-India Trade, who happen to be at a distance from the Presidency, in measures for its support, the Editors of the different Newspaper be invited to publish the proceedings of the London Committee, or such heads as may be convenient, together with these Resolutions, for general information.

7th.—That this Meeting is deeply impressed with a sense of the judicious and zealous efforts of the London Society to extend, improve and secure the Trade between the Mother-country and the East Indies, and offers the assurance of cordial co-operation in the important objects.

8th.—That Messrs COLVIN & Co. be appointed **Treasurers**, to collect the sums subscribed, and to remit the same to the London Society.

9th.—That Mr. PALMER be requested to transmit a copy of these Resolutions to the London Society.

CALCUTTA BAZAR RATES, APRIL 26, 1823.

	BUY....	SELL
Remittable Loans,	Rs. 30 6	29 4
Unremittable ditto,	6 0	7 8
Bills of Exchange on the Court of Directors, for) 12 Months, dated 26th of April 1823,	25 0	24 0
Bank Shares,	6500 0	6300 0
Spanish Dollars, per 100,	295 8	205 8
Notes of Good Houses, for 6 Months, bearing Interest, at 5 per cent.		
Government Bills, Discounted,		at 3-8 per cent
Loans on Deposit of Company's Paper, for 1 to 3 months, at 4 per cent.		

New Institution.

The Parents, Guardians, and Friends, connected with the **PARENTAL-ACADEMIC-INSTITUTION**, as well as the Public in general, are hereby informed, that the Seminary, No. 11, Park Street, will be opened for the reception of Scholars, on Thursday next, the 1st proximo.

By order of the Committee of Management.

April 25, 1823.

JOHN W. RICKETTS, Sec. P. A. I.

New Publication.

We have been favored with a perusal of the very valuable Publication, just issued from the Press, entitled, **A GUIDE TO THE COMMERCE OF BENGAL**, by JOHN PHIPPS, of the *Master Attendant's Office*, CALCUTTA.—This elaborate compilation, professes to be "compiled from authentic sources;" and to the accuracy of this assertion, the documents contained in the body of the Work, bear the best and most satisfactory testimony. We have seldom seen any publication, to which we are more inclined to bestow the epithet *valuable* than the one under consideration, if industry on the part of the AUTHOR and utility on the part of his Book be considered,—as they most undoubtedly must be considered,—to constitute just pretensions to the honor of that appellation.

The Preface to this Publication, by no means comprises the least interesting portion of its contents; from the clear notions, which it conveys, in few words and perspicuous language, of the present state of the commercial relations of the Metropolis of British India, this Eastern London, with the other great mercantile marts of the world;—with which our Merchants, the Princes of the earth, carry on commercial intercourse. This document, we therefore take the liberty to submit entire to our Readers:

The Compiler of this Work, whilst deriving much satisfaction from being enabled at last to submit his labours to the liberal judgment of the Mercantile Community of the Metropolis of British India, feels it incumbent upon himself to accompany this attempt as being useful, with some explanation of the circumstances which led to its gradual arrangement, improvement, and final publication.

When the idea of the utility of a Mercantile Guide to the Commerce of India, first suggested itself to the Author, he did not form the least conception of the great extent of labour that would attend the task, even when considered abstractedly from desultory and speculative observations on the subject; and although he has carefully avoided these, and has confined himself chiefly to statements of facts, simply accompanied by remarks, directed by the occurrences which took place during the eventful period, which followed the close of "Milburn's Oriental Commerce," he confesses that at times he felt much discouraged, by the vast accumulation of matter, and inclined to desist from his undertaking.

The Compiler felt actuated to the publication of the present Work, chiefly by the experienced dearth of accurate information on the subject, and urged to a diligent use of the opportunities afforded to him, of collecting materials within his reach, from having (in his official capacity) witnessed, during a long series of years, the unnecessary perplexity and trouble, experienced by Commanders and Passengers, particularly strangers to the port, and others, transacting business relating to the entry and clearance of ships resorting to the River Hoogly, from such individuals being imperfectly acquainted with the multifarious Regulations and Forms prescribed;—and the Compiler of the following sheets trusts, that the present arrangement of them in a form peculiarly adapted for ready reference, and for the guidance of those who may find themselves placed under the disadvantages already alluded to, and which it is intended to obviate, will be generally approved. He ventures to assume, also, that this publication will be found useful to all other individuals, in any way connected with the India Trade, and particularly with the external Commerce of this city.

The Work, which at first was intended as a continuation of the Commercial part of Milburn's, (principally as it respects Bengal,) has attained to its present size, by reason of the many valuable and useful documents, of such an extent and nature, that the Compiler was induced to admit them as it advanced through the press; and it has been by unremitting perseverance alone, amidst official avocations, that he has, at last, been able to complete a volume, which although the comparative paucity of his hours of leisure, and the enhanced expense of printing a greater number of sheets than were originally intended,

sternly dictated that it should be comprised in the smallest possible compass, has attained a much greater bulk than he contemplated.

The object next aimed at in this Work, has been to exhibit, at one view, a concise but comprehensive, and at the same time, as accurate a statement as could be framed, of the external Commerce of Bengal generally, and particularly of that part connected with Britain, Continental Europe, Eastern and Western Asia, and America, since the opening of the Free Trade in 1813-14, to the end of the year 1822.

The following summary delineation of the contents of the Work, accompanied by such desultory observations as occurred to the Author, during the progress of the compilation, will not, he presumes, be deemed irrelevant, or altogether useless.

To the Port Regulations, which claimed first the Compiler's attention, he has annexed Directions; which have been approved by competent judges, and considered by them well calculated, to lessen considerably, the unnecessary trouble, fatigue, and exposure to the heat of this climate, to which the parties engaged in the Trade of Calcutta, have been hitherto unavoidably subjected, from the want of a proper guide.

The statements of Shipping appertaining to this and other principal Ports of British India, for the past and antecedent years, will, it is hoped, be found much more comprehensive and exact, than any before published.

A very great depreciation has taken place, within the last few years, in the value of Calcutta-built Ships. Vessels of Teak-wood, and almost new, were sold during the years 1821 and 1822, for half, and in some instances, for less than a third, of their original cost: it is however generally expected that a change for the better, at no distant period, will take place; as few ships are now building, and the number and quantity of tonnage of vessels has been reduced, the former from 158 to 126 vessels, the latter from 60,083 to 49,202 tons. (See page 67 and Addenda.)

The estimate of tonnage of Calcutta Shipping likely to find employment, at page 128, has proved nearly correct, as the result of 1822 approximates to that estimate; the difference, in excess, being only 1,658 tons, (see Addenda.)

It being clearly ascertained that a Vessel of 300 tons burthen, can be built and equipped in the River Hoogly, for a sum not exceeding the cost of one of equal size, built on the River Thames, for the East India Trade; the shipping concern of this Port, cannot be expected to suffer much further depression, from competition with that of Britain particularly when the cheap ships, now running, shall have become unfit for longer service; a circumstance which must soon occur, and to no small extent.

The import and export, at Calcutta, of Native vessels, commonly denominated Dhonies, employed in the Coasting Trade, principally between the Coromandel Coast and Bengal, are stated separately from the regular shipping, at page 122. This distinction, the Compiler believes, is not shown in any other publication; so that the number of regular ships and vessels, resorting to Calcutta, thereby appears much greater than was really the case.

The Regulations of different Ports of Asia, are given in the Appendix. It is presumed that they will be found very useful, particularly those for Bengal, which, the Compiler confidently trusts, will in a great measure supersede whatever has appeared in previous publications; those contained in the present Work, having been published mostly very recently, and many of them not having been promulgated beyond the places whence they emanated. The copious extracts, and numerous articles and notes, interspersed throughout the Work, will, it is hoped, not fail to be acceptable to the Mercantile reader.

The Commercial statements are believed to be as correct as such papers are generally found. From the obvious difficulty, with which information of this kind is obtained, the Compiler trusts, that any inaccuracies proceeding from this cause, will meet with indulgent consideration from a liberal public, and that they will be kindly pointed out by those, who feel themselves interested in the prosperity of the Port.

By referring to a page 106, it will be seen, that the Commerce between Great Britain and Bengal has increased very considerably since the opening of the Free Trade, particularly the imports into the latter; in vessels in a threefold, and in tonnage in a twofold, proportion—the difference in these arising from a great proportion of small ships having been admitted to it. A decrease in the East India Company's tonnage, and vast increase in that of the public, will also be perceived. With respect to the tonnage employed between Great Britain and Bengal, the result of the years 1821 and 1822 respectively, are nearly equal.

Several writers upon the subject of Commerce with the Eastern Archipelago, appear to have been too sanguine in their expectations as to its extent, and the advantages to be derived from it. The trivial num-

ber of private Traders from Great Britain that have engaged in it since the opening of the Trade, has entirely glutted the Eastern markets; depressed sales have followed, and consequently considerable losses must have been experienced. British Manufactures, calculated for these markets, have been sold very recently at Calcutta, for a little above prime cost from the manufacturer, and often below it. To these facts must be added, the additional loss caused by the unfavourable state of the Exchange. It will therefore be admitted, that a Trade fraught with such disadvantages, cannot be prosecuted to any great extent with vigour or success; independent of the loss it heaps on itself, it causes also much depression in the Country Trade, a branch which ought to be cherished and upheld for the interest and permanent safety of British India.

But if, on the one hand, the Free Trade has injured in part its own interests, and capitally those of the country shipping, it has on the other hand, very much affected the Commerce of the United States with Bengal. It is now clearly shown, that the American cannot compete with British Free Trade; for in May 1820, not one American vessel remained in this Port, in May 1821 only two, and in May and December 1822 respectively, the same number. The statements in the second and third parts of this Work, exhibit fully the rapid decline of this once extensive Trade.

With regard to Continental Europe, it appears (on reference to pp. 173—174, that its commerce with this country, which was revived in a very limited degree after the Peace, has been fluctuating, and that with Spain, Holland, and Denmark, at a stand for the last two or three years.

The Trade with Gibraltar and Malta, or rather with the Mediterranean, does not appear to have realized the very sanguine expectations at first entertained by many respecting it; on reference to page 107, the reader will find, that only one vessel cleared out from this port in 1820, and that none arrived from or sailed for either of those places in 1821, two Calcutta ships cleared out at the latter end of 1822, (one of them for Marseilles and Leghorn;) but it is believed, that the proprietors of their cargoes had no other end in view, than a remittance somewhat more favourable than could be effected with England by direct means.

The foreign settlements in the East, which were taken possession of by the British Government during the late war, having been restored (with very few exceptions) at the peace, in virtue of the Treaties concluded with the powers to whom they belonged; the three or four last years, may perhaps be regarded as a tolerably fair criterion, from which to estimate the extent of the trade between those places and Bengal.

A new channel of Trade between Bengal and South America, opened itself in 1817-18. Some of the cargoes, consisting chiefly of piece goods from hence, yielded a great profit, whilst adventurers in other produce met considerable losses. The imports from thence hitherto, have been, Specie, Silver Bullion, and Copper in slabs. The increase of this trade has kept an equal pace with the decline experienced by the commercial speculations to and from the Philippine Islands.

The recent return to Calcutta of the Mission which proceeded hence to Siam and Cochin-China, has afforded the Compiler an opportunity of giving (in the Appendix, at page 157) some authentic and interesting particulars, respecting the commerce of those countries; from which it would appear that Cochin-China, in particular, affords great encouragement to extensive Mercantile speculation.

Upon the whole, the Compiler trusts, that this volume will be found to contain a comprehensive and clear view of the external Commerce of Bengal, particularly since the opening of the Free Trade. He has presumed only to offer a few cursory observations, as to the effects already felt, and likely to result, from the change of system; and if his endeavours prove generally useful, and calculated to accelerate the transactions of those engaged in the Commerce of British India, and to afford satisfactory information to those otherwise interested in this important subject, he will feel amply rewarded for his humble exertions.

To the Work itself, we refer our commercial friends with the greatest satisfaction; and confidently predict it will prove a highly useful acquisition to all engaged in Commercial Speculations with India, particularly Bengal and Calcutta; to whose Libraries, it must, in fact, prove an indispensable addition. And more particularly now, when a Society has been formed here to co-operate with the Society in London, instituted expressly to encourage and promote the East India Trade.

We understand this elaborate compilation has occupied the attention of the author, for a period exceeding two years; and every page bespeaks his industry, and the activity which has been exerted, to submit the documents so free from errors to the members of the Commercial classes of the community, to whom the volume is inscribed.

Monday, April 28, 1823.

—799—

Encroachments of Indigo Planters.

To the Editor of the India Gazette.

Sir,

In your paper of the 3d current you have given insertion to a letter relative to the shameful and vile habit of one Planter encroaching on another's property, and the writer subsumes "that no respectable characters, natives of any country, as far as he has been able to learn, are concerned in these shameful intrusions." That such is not the case I am sorry indeed, for my concerns have been shamefully encroached upon by Planters moving in the first circles of society,—most wantonly encroached on, Mr. Editor,—and that attended with circumstances which can never be justified. I trust, however, when they read "GILLIN GORRA" their best blood will rush to their cheeks, and carry back to the heart a sense of such shameful spoliation. Avarice is the vice of age; a warm climate and pernicious example, I observe, sometimes cause it to germinate in the young. Were the same disgrace and consequences attached to underhand proceedings in the Indigo line, as follows in unfair dealings in other mercantile transactions, the Indigo line would become the most respectable of this or any other country. But where there are "Mackeths" who glory in their achievements, and gentlemen encroachers backed with capital and experience, I fear the example will prove eminently pernicious. In the district of Tirhoot I have never heard that the least complaint, or even the cause of complaint, on this score existed; and there is no reason why it should be tolerated any-where else. One of the persons who has set the example

I would be glad if such transactions were put an end to by the Agents, but mine took some pains in this case with the Agents of the other party in vain. Factories altho' frequently changing hands are generally more the property of Agents than those who carry them on; and to protect such property is peculiarly their province.

I remain, Sir, Your most obedient Servant,

INDICUS.

We have omitted a portion of INDICUS's letter, because it referred to a known individual.—Ed.

Cheap Living in England.

To the Editor of the India Gazette.

Sir,

I will endeavour to answer the Query of "A WEARY EMILE," who appears anxious to see Home again. I consider £300 a-year more than sufficient for a married man with three or four children to live comfortably and genteely. I say more than sufficient, and that too in any part of England, Scotland or Wales. Having lately returned from thence I speak with some confidence on the subject. Let us descend into particulars. A small house or cottage, with a garden plentifully stocked with fruit trees, with a small paddock for a cow, and eight or ten acres of land, may be rented for £35 or 40 per year; taxes will be £20 more: making £60. A man servant's wages £10 per year, and a woman's £3, and they will be sufficient for every occasion: total £73. The markets are now cheap. Beef, mutton, veal, pork, &c. from 3d to 6d. per lb.: in fact provisions of all kinds are about one half what they were in time of war. I think 2 Guineas per week would buy provisions for such a family, including the domestics; but on the outside we will say 2½ per week, making per annum £130, or a total of £203. Then the children's schooling: if at a day-school, will be 1 Guinea per quarter each; for three children is £12 per year, is £220 per year, and the rest should be consumed in plain decent clothes for the family.—I allow nothing for wine, because that article in England is a luxury, not economy; but at a small expence, a man if he is at all clever, can brew his own beer, ale, or cyder, which is far better than the trash usually sold in England by the name of wine. In the above estimate I speak principally of England. Scotland is far cheaper, and Wales more so, and a beautiful romantic country. I must observe, however, that numerous families have of late emigrated to France and Brussels, where they obtain the luxuries of life at the same rate as in England we obtain the necessities,—but that is not Home, and would lose its charm. Had I a clear £300 per year, being a single man, I have no hesitation in saying I would not remain another hour in India, but return home for good. When I was in England, I boarded at No. 46. Leadenhall-street. I had a capital front room for a bed room; breakfast, dinner, tea and supper with the family, for 1 Guinea per week, or 52 Guineas per year. I had no other expences but clothes and washing. I could invite whom I pleased to dine with me, paying 2s. for his dinner. I drank no wine, but ale or porter from the public house and a glass of hot whisky punch after dinner. I met an old Indian friend, who was living very expensively at an hotel, more than a Guinea a day. I brought him home, and he was so well pleased, he became an inmate. In short, I take this opportunity of strongly recommending this house—kept by a respectable widow, Prier, and her daughter, a very pretty girl—to all Officers and Bachelors proceeding to England, here they will find a comfortable home, and every desire to give satisfaction. In short we all lived as one fami-

ly: her son residing in the house; and altho' I was there only four months, the family cried, actually, at my departure; so kind were they. I need not add its vicinity to the India House must be very accommodating to those who have business there, which was the reason I first went there. Any further information I can furnish, I will cheerfully do, and remain,

Sir, Your most obedient Servant,

Cawnpore, April 13, 1823.

CLAUDIO.

P. S. The keep of a horse and groom will be about £30 per year, and a good saddle roadster may be had for £40 or 45.

Bombay.

Bombay, April 9, 1823.—On Friday Evening last, the Troops in Garrison, consisting of the Bombay European Regiment, 2nd Battalion 9th Regiment Native Infantry, and 2d Extra Battalion, forming a Brigade, under the Command of Colonel Ogilvie, C. B. of His Majesty's 20th Regiment, were reviewed by the Hon'ble the Governor.

The Troops, after performing several manœuvres in a satisfactory style, passed in Order of Review, when the Hon'ble the Governor was pleased to issue the following General Order through His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

General Orders by the Commander in Chief, Head-quarters, Bombay, Saturday, April 5, 1823.

The Commander in Chief has been requested by the Honourable the Governor to make known to the Troops Inspected by him yesterday and exercised by Lieutenant Colonel Ogilvie, C. B. Commandant of the Garrison, his entire satisfaction at their appearance and performance, to which His Excellency begs to add the expression of his own.

Theatricals.—We are happy to observe, that the spirit and zeal of our corps dramatique, has enabled the Managers to announce the first part of Shakespear's Historical play of King Henry the Fourth for representation on Tuesday Evening, the 15th instant.

Understanding that some alarm has been excited among the fair readers of Shakespear after perusing the old and uncorrected Editions, we are happy in being able to state, that Inchbald will be the prompt book. The latter we have read, and find every thing expunged that in any degree might prove ungrateful to the chastest ear.

ABU JAAD has sent us his promised letter, but as it touches most pointedly on a subject, which will shortly appear in a more serious shape in a Public Court of Justice, we decline giving it insertion.—Bombay Gazette.

New South Wales.

Sydney Gazette, February 6, 1823.—On Thursday last the Agricultural Society held the General Quarterly Meeting at Nash's Inn, Parramatta, and afterwards dined together. Mr. Nash provided an excellent Dinner, at a very moderate charge; and the desert was contributed from the gardens of Dr. Townson and Captain Piper. It consisted of no fewer than 18 kinds of fresh fruit, and 4 of dried; among which were the bananas, the Orleans plum, the green gage, the real peach, the cathed apple, and a peculiarly fine sort of musk melon. We understand that the Meetings are to be held at Walker's and Nash's alternately. A Horticultural Subscription, of 5 dollars, is set on foot, and a Committee chosen. The future Agricultural Subscription was altered to 20 dollars.—At this Meeting three new Members were elected, and twelve proposed for the next Meeting. Mr. Jonas Bradley, to whom the silver tankard was voted for his specimen of tobacco, laid before the Society a statement of his mode and cure, a copy of which we are promised for publication. The President presented him with the piece of plate suitably inscribed (the workmanship by Mr. Robertson), and informed him, with a view to encourage the colonial growth of tobacco, the legislature had now authorised the Governor, at discretion, to lay a duty of 4 shillings per lb. upon the importation of foreign tobacco. This meritorious marine settler acquainted the Society that, although Governor Macquarie had never given him more than 50 acres of land, yet he had acquired upwards of 100 head of cattle and 800 sheep. One of his sons was among the number of proposed new Members.

Thunder-storm.—On Friday, the 18th ultimo, there was a heavy thunder-storm at Liverpool, which travelled in a line across the country from S. E. extending over a breadth of about three miles, and at last burst with tremendous fury. The rain came down in torrents, and the thunder and lightning were fierce beyond description. A gang of eight Government men, with irons on, went into the Church for shelter; when, awful to relate, the electric fluid burst upon their asylum, and, attracted doubtless by their chains, knocked the whole of them down, and killed three instantaneously. One of those who fell, had a child in his arms, who escaped all injury. Three lay some time speechless; and two, by the last accounts, were still in the Hospital, dangerously wounded.

Death of an Aborigine.—On Friday night last, Thomas Walker Coke, an Aborigine native, and son to the renowned *Jennelung*, departed this life, at the Wesleyan Aborigine Mission house, in the vicinity of Parramatta after a rather short illness. It is an especial duty, we conceive, to record the demise of this interesting youth; his age was somewhere about 20. When the Reverend Mr. Walker first came in the Colony, he adopted the deceased as his own son, in the benign view not only of feeding and clothing him, but also to instil into his mind the saving principles of Christianity. A single aberration excepted, the once poor friendless black boy amply compensated his master—friend—and brother, for the sedulous attention that was paid to his interest. Three or four months since, he was publicly baptized, being honoured with the distinguished and humanizing name of the immortal Dr. Coke. A few weeks since he was married to a native girl, who had been some considerable time previously treated in the family of Mrs. Hasall, of Parramatta; her name is Maria. Up to the period of his death he gave satisfactory evidence of his acceptance with his Maker, leaving his Pastor a firm hope of his eternal happiness. He ever seemed greatly interested in the present onerous condition of his hapless race, and often fervently prayed that their race should never be allowed to droop. Did our limits permit the pleasure, we would publish a letter, the production of the above youth, which would speak volumes; and could satisfy the Reader that nought but circumscribed effort, arising from the absence of pecuniary resources, precludes the poor aborigine from the sweet enjoyments of civilization, and deprives him of the Heaven-born rights of Christianity.—February 6.

Inducements to Emigrants to settle at Van Diemen's Land.—Credibly we are informed, that the inducements to emigrants to settle at Van Diemen's Land, on their arrival at that port, are discovered to be, in many instances, of an evanescent nature. The free settler, with his interesting family, bids adieu to his native land to seek comfortable sustentation for those whom Providence has placed under his control, with the view of settling in one of these Colonies. Too generally, however, the commanders of vessels find it advantageous to call at Hobart Town, on their way thither; the passengers of course, some of whom never before saw the ocean, are proud to have firm footing on terra firma once more after a long and dreary passage; the vessel remains in port several weeks; acquaintances are formed; schemes of prosperity are contemplated; the dangers of the ocean appear too formidable to contend with again very readily; and the consequence is, that while all these events are revolving, time flies, and the means to get to Sydney (the capital) imperceptibly slip through the fingers, and therefore it only remains for the emigrant to sit contentedly down, with his wife and family (if he has any) on the shores of Van Diemen. We must say, and it is our wish that these sentiments may go far and wide, that many of the emigrants act very prematurely in inconsiderately giving the preference against New South Wales. When they leave England, their native home, in quest of another more grateful or less expensive it should be with the principle that ever actuated an eminent man (Sir Joseph Banks); viz. to take nothing upon trust—"Nullis in verba" bring the worthy Baronet's motto. We wish to be candid in our animadversions; and therefore pronounce, that New South Wales (its interior at least) is no more ineligible for the advantageous reception of settlers than Van Diemen's Land. Emigrants, who have the welfare of their families at heart, should undoubtedly see both colonies, ere they become fixed. This would be attended with more expense in the outset but ever after would be gratifying and profitable. There are many in Van Diemen's Land who would now like to visit Australasia, but present means will not permit. After all the sarcasms and the illiberal sneers that may be politically thrown out against the capital, still there are not a few who feel far from easy in the midst of their new friends; they would gladly extend hand if impediments could be removed. The day is coming when some emigrants may have to abandon their present speculations, and come hither; but we do not require those who are established, and feel at home; we merely wish to persuade our countrymen, who intend to come out to this interesting part of the globe, to "do nothing rashly." It is headstrong, unwise, and untrue too, to say that Australasia is excelled by Van Diemen's Land; we shall never countenance such an idle fancy, unless the contrary, if possible, be well established.—January 30.

West Coast of New Zealand.—Mr. Grono, master of the *ELIZABETH*, colonial brig, appeared at the Police Office yesterday, together with 7 men, 5 of whom were Europeans, 1 an American, and 1 a New Zealander. Mr. Grono brought those persons from the West Coast of New Zealand under the following circumstances:—Upon the *ELIZABETH* making the coast a boat came off, manned with seven men. They told the person in charge of the *ELIZABETH*, the master then being absent, that the natives were very hostile to the crews of vessels, and to the gangs in the vicinity; that a party of them had lately killed four of their gang; and therefore advised them to be cautious. They farther said, that their boat, with themselves, belonged to the American ship General Gates, Captain Riggs, which was cruising off the Islands, leaving the chief officer Barnham, with them. This latter individual is the American alluded to. When

Mr. Grono came to a knowledge of this occurrence, he proceeded on shore with the boat's crew, and took the men prisoners; under the idea, as he wished to impress the Magistrates, that they were runaway convicts, and had now turned pirates in our seas. One of the men avowed himself to be an escaped prisoner of the Crown, but the others asserted their freedom, which no one was prepared to deny. They said there was not the smallest doubt but that Captain Riggs would come after them to Port Jackson as soon as information reached him of the event; which has before now occurred, from the gang that Mr. Grono stationed on the spot he took this party from. The free men were directed to be remanded till ample satisfaction could be procured as to their actual freedom, and the prisoner was ordered into custody, to be dealt with in the usual way. With regard to the conduct of Mr. Grono on the novel occasion, the Magistrates, in this stage of the proceedings, could not withhold expressing their entire disapprobation at the perpetration of such an act.—January 23.

Shipping Arrivals.

BOMBAY.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
April 5	Sr. de Penha	Portg.	L. de Encarnacao	Macao	Dec. 20
	5 Sultan	British	J. Hodges	Bussorah	Mar. 2
	6 Ernaad	British	D. Jones	Calcutta	—

Shipping Departures.

MADRAS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destinations
April 11	Powerful	British	C. Eaton	Eastward

BOMBAY.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destinations
April 5	Angelica	Portg.	A. F. de Silva	Demann

Stations of Vessels in the River.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 25, 1823.

At Diamond Harbour.—FRANCIS CHARLOTTE, VIRGINIA, and ZELY, (F.), outward-bound, remain.

New Anchorage.—H. C. S. ROYAL GEORGE.

The HERCULES arrived off the Salt Golahs on Friday last.

Passengers.

Passengers per Ernaad, from Calcutta to Bombay.—Mrs. Hungerford, Lieutenant Doyle, His Majesty's 4th Dragoons, Lieutenant Child, His Majesty's 67th Regiment, Mr. Johnson, Mr. George Howard, and Mr. William Higham.

Passengers per Angelica, from Bombay for Demann.—Mr. O. M. Barros, Mr. J. M. Pinto, and Mr. A. A. D. Silva.

Deaths.

At Cuttack, on the 9th instant, Mrs. CHARLOTTE BAPTIST, Wife of Mr. F. N. B. BAPTIST, aged 26 years, leaving a disconsolate husband and seven Children to lament her premature loss.

At Dacca, on the 20th instant, sincerely regretted by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, ARRASTON MICHAEL, Esq. a very rich and opulent zemindar. He was courteous and affable in his demeanour, a pious Christian, and a staunch friend and patron to the poor.

At Arcot, on the 4th instant, E. B. HARRINGTON, Esq. third Son of the late W. HARRINGTON, Esq. of the Madras Civil Service, in the 22d year of his age.

At Bombay, on the 7th instant, in the 34th year of his age, Captain JOSE JOAQUIM FRITAS, late of the Portuguese Navy. Notwithstanding that the evening of his mortal career appeared darkened by clouds big with misfortune, he still cultivated so good-natured and sociable a temper that he always ensured the esteem and respect of those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. To him, death, we hope, was a truly welcome messenger since he met him while lingering under the most severe indisposition and with the piety and resignation of a humble Christian.

At Bassadore, on the 22d of February, of a bilious fever, after 27 days severe suffering, Lieutenant JOHN STOUT, of the Honorable Company's Marine, and Commanding the *Mincureux*, aged 32 years: a man whose gentleness of manners, goodness of heart and worth of character, rendered him truly esteemed and respected by those who had the pleasure of being intimately known to him, and whose loss is severely felt, by his family and friends.